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Dry bean

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

B-1 April 17, 1931.

WORLD DRY BEAN PROSPECTS a/ b/

Dry bean supplies seem to be ample for this season in the United States and in Japan and Rumania, both important exporting countries whose beans compete with those in this country. There is an impending carry-over in the United States larger than in any of the past three years, and unless domestic consumption in Japan and Rumania is greater than normal there is promise of an increase in carry-over in those countries over that of the past two years also. Crops in some European importing countries were larger than early reports indicated and there has been little demand there for the surplus of the exporting countries. Any improvement in the general business situation might be expected to be reflected in improvement in the bean market situation.

Prices have continued to fall during the winter months, although the rate of decline has been small compared with that of the first few months of the marketing season. Prices of many varieties in New York, which had been holding fairly firm in January and the first part of February declined more rapidly late in February and in March. In the Antwerp market there were some signs of strength during February. Such signs were not noted at Marseille and in Rumania, however. Some tendency has been noted of reluctance of growers in the United States and Rumania to sell at current prices but this tendency

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a/ This report is the first of a series of reports to be issued separately from time to time on the dry bean situation. Similar previous summaries of the situation have been published in Foreign Crops and Markets in the issues of December 9, 1929, and March 17, June 9, August 11, and November 24 of 1930.
b/ The statements on foreign bean conditions other than official reports are based on reports of Agricultural Attaché L. G. Michael at Belgrade; Consuls John Randolph at Bucharest, John S. Calvert at Marseille, Alfred D. Cameron at Paris, Walter S. Reineck at Antwerp, Homer Brett at Milan, and John S. Richardson Jr. at Tananarive; Vice Consuls Thomas T. Sherman at Sofia, Donald C. Wilcox at Rome and Camden L. McLain at Valparaiso; Commercial Attachés Ralph H. Ackerman at Santiago and George Wythe at Mexico City; and Assistant Trade Commissioner Howard B. Titus at Tokyo.

has not been strong enough so far to strengthen prices noticeably.

Imports into the United States for the first six months of the current season have been up to the average of that period in the years, 1924-25 to 1928-29, in spite of the large crop in this country. The competition has been especially keen from beans coming from Japan, competing with American white beans. Supplies of those varieties in Japan still appear to be large. There is a prospect of further competition from Chile during the balance of this season and the first part of next season. Prices ruling in Chile for export classes in the latter part of February seemed to be low enough to encourage shipments to this country, and in addition an export premium has been granted by the Chilean Government for certain varieties. With a new crop in Chile now coming on the market giving promise of a harvest as large as the large one a year ago, there is a probability of keen competition from that source.

Acreage for the 1931 crop

Reports to the Crop Reporting Board indicated farmers' intentions to plant this season a bean acreage 1.5 per cent less than the large acreage harvested in 1930, which acreage with average yields would produce a crop of 24,000,000 bushels, about 2,000,000 bushels more than that of 1930. Reductions are indicated for Michigan and New York, where pea beans are important, for the pinto region, and for blackeyes in California, while increases are indicated for the great northern region and for baby limas in California. Average yields on acreages equal to the reported intentions would increase the output materially for Michigan where pea beans are important, and slightly in the great northern region, but would reduce production in the pinto region.

Little information is available on probable acreage in foreign countries. There is small assurance that the low prices current for the present crop will discourage planting in Rumania, an important competitor in bean production, there being little association apparent in recent years between bean prices and seedings for the next harvest. Beans are grown with corn to a large extent and probably have a fertility value sufficient to encourage more or less planting even at low prices. Bean plantings are not large in comparison to the total corn area of Rumania and the amount of the corn acreage gives little indication of the bean acreage. Government stimulation of agricultural production in Rumania may tend to stimulate bean plantings in spite of low prices.

In Chile the crop now coming on the market will compete with the 1931 crop in the United States as well as with that of 1930. According to present indications, this crop bids fair to be as large as the large crop harvested a year ago, but more definite indications later may be considerably different.

Production in 1930

Recent reports on common bean production in European countries and revisions of other countries bring the total crop reported to date for 1930 up to 55,677,000 bushels compared with 54,101,000 bushels in 1929, and an average of 52,474,000 bushels in the period, 1924 to 1928. Figures are still missing for some important producing countries, but with the exception of Chile, these countries are not among the more important importers or exporters and thus do not materially affect the international situation.

Although total production in 1930 was not far from that of 1929, the distribution was somewhat different. The United States crop was larger than the large crop of 1929, and Japan also had a record crop of common varieties, while Europe had a slightly smaller crop than in 1929. Within Europe the 1930 crop in the importing or self sufficing countries was generally larger than in 1929, while the crop in the exporting countries of the lower Danube was comparatively small. The production estimate for Japan has been reduced slightly, but is still much in excess of previous harvests. Chile's harvest not yet reported bids fair to be as large as that a year ago.

BEANS: Production of dry edible common varieties in specified countries, 1924-1930

Country	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930 Prelim.
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA							
United States a/	15,159	19,928	17,396	16,181	17,647	20,707	22,137
Canada	1,194	1,501	1,160	1,037	1,170	1,491	1,439
Mexico	2,519	7,209	7,851	7,179	6,472	3,483	2,957
Guatemala	149	125	b/(160)	180	b/(160)		
Total North American countries reporting in 1930	18,872	28,638	26,407	24,397	25,289	25,681	26,533
EUROPE							
England and Wales	6,568	5,512	5,910	6,091	4,872	4,109	5,137
Scotland	125	112	108	112	112	101	127
Netherlands	577	671	602	388	383	572	c/
France	4,095	5,726	3,500	4,512	2,558	2,815	4,302
Italy	4,369	5,247	5,890	4,037	2,975	5,742	5,952
Spain	5,268	6,214	4,609	6,462	4,296		
Portugal		1,299	938	b/(975)	b/(975)		
Germany	b/(600)	b/(600)	b/(600)	667	421	453	424
Poland d/	1,076	1,215	1,171	1,337	1,518	1,362	e/
Czechoslovakia	505	519	514	491	359	412	
Austria	325	385	287	358	346	454	389
Hungary d/	1,303	1,810	2,264	1,756	1,008	1,704	852
Yugoslavia	1,389	1,393	1,351	603	b/(1,137)		
Rumania	f/11,720	g/9,103	9,238	6,307	h/4,420	9,518	7,421
Bulgaria	2,233	2,171	1,654	1,063	643	2,573	i/
Greece	2,930	2,904	3,409	1,762	1,737	1,810	
Cyprus	78	33	103	113	103		
Total European Countries reporting in 1930	29,105	28,495	27,795	23,870	16,712	24,896	24,654
ASIA							
Japan, Hokkaido Province	j/2,478	j/2,943	2,304	2,695	2,371	3,524	4,490
Chosen	128	204	228	165	138		
SOUTH AMERICA							
Brazil		18,698	19,548	22,425	25,535		
Chile	1,338	1,616	1,877	2,874	2,766	2,970	k/
Total all countries reporting in 1930	50,455	60,076	56,506	50,962	44,372	54,101	55,677
Total all countries		97,138	92,670	89,800	84,120		

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Figures are taken from official reports of the producing countries except as otherwise noted. Indications of harvest and condition are based mostly on reports of the Consular Service. a/ Includes lima beans and black eyes in California. b/ Interpolation. c/ Acreage reported to be about 20 per cent above 1929. d/ Not definitely known to be common beans. e/ Acreage reported to be slightly smaller than in 1929 and yields poor. f/ A large crop of poor quality not in demand for exports. g/ The total supply was increased and quality lowered by a large carry-over of poor quality beans from the preceding harvest. h/ A small outturn due to severe drought. i/ Unofficial reports place the probable crop at about 2,200,000 bushel

Continued -

BEANS: Production of dry edible common varieties in specified countries, 1924-1930-Continued

j/ Production of common beans in all Japan, practically all of which is included in Hokkaido Province. k/ Unofficial information available indicates no decrease in acreage of varieties commonly exported to the United States nor in total bean acreage.

United States

Total United States 1930 bean production was increased, according to the December estimate, to 22,137,000 bushels compared with 20,707,000 bushels in 1929 and an average of 17,262,000 bushels in the period, 1924 to 1928. White bean production for 1930 is estimated by the Division of Crop Estimates at 9,214,000 bushels compared with 9,474,000 bushels in 1929 and an average of 8,888,000 for the period, 1924 to 1928. The increase above the average is due principally to the large crop of great northerns estimated at 3,034,000 bushels compared with 2,617,000 bushels in 1929 and an average of 1,664,000 in the 1924-1928 period. Small whites and marrows were also produced in larger quantities in 1930 than in 1929, but those classes form only a small part of the total white bean crop. Production of pea beans, the most commonly produced single variety in the white bean class, was only 4,811,000 bushels in 1930 compared with 5,511,000 in 1929 and an average of 6,039,000 in the 1924-1928 period.

Total colored bean production reached 8,730,000 bushels in 1930 compared with 7,675,000 in 1929 and an average of 5,615,000 in the 1924-1928 period. Increased production of pintos was an important factor in the increase in the colored bean crop. Pinto production for 1930 is placed at 4,652,000 bushels compared with 4,026,000 in 1929 and an average of 2,194,000 in the 1924-1928 period. Production estimates of of black eyes, of pinks, of cranberries, and of small reds, formerly variously known as California reds, red Mexicans or red minors, were also larger in 1930 than 1929. Production of red and dark red kidneys was the smallest in recent years, amounting to only 662,000 bushels compared with 878,000 in 1929 and an average of 1,207,000 in the period, 1924-1928. Both regular limas and baby limas were produced in greater quantity in 1930 than 1929.

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UNITED STATES: Bean production, 1922-1930 by commercial classes

Variety	Average 1922 to 1926	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Pea bean	6,396	6,288	7,749	6,153	4,558	5,447	5,511	4,811
Small white ...	504	227	432	346	508	769	821	915
Great northern..	1,016	1,140	1,530	1,355	2,248	2,049	2,617	3,034
Large white ...	381	507	757	306	233	210	232	135
Marrow	223	288	365	137	132	184	220	255
White kidney...	114	132	97	148	90	55	73	64
All whites	8,634	8,582	10,930	8,445	7,769	8,714	9,474	9,214
Red and dark red kidneys..	1,205	1,434	1,452	1,199	814	1,134	878	662
Small red	181	135	290	158	319	495	443	515
Cranberry	122	108	85	172	188	177	178	200
Pink	983	393	1,002	1,088	977	981	1,074	1,080
Yellow eye	224	299	199	208	195	190	198	156
Pinto	1,702	1,761	2,528	1,844	2,550	2,286	4,026	4,652
Bayo	49	40	40	50	56	20	20	25
Blackeye	563	351	825	802	516	713	858	1,440
All colored ...	5,029	4,521	6,421	5,521	5,615	5,996	7,675	8,730
Lima	1,595	933	1,370	2,070	1,726	1,590	1,762	1,902
Baby lima	538	470	500	969	542	668	810	1,150
All limas	2,133	1,403	1,870	3,039	2,268	2,258	2,572	3,052
Miscellaneous..	600	653	707	391	529	679	986	1,141
Grand total for commercial States	16,396	15,159	19,928	17,396	16,181	17,647	20,707	22,137

Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates.

Principal producing States: Pea bean, Michigan and New York; small white, California; great northern, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming; large white, Michigan; marrow and white kidney, New York; small red, Idaho and California; red kidney, Michigan, New York and California; cranberry, pink, lima, bayo and blackeye, California; yellow eye, New York and New England; pinto, Colorado and New Mexico; Miscellaneous (including garden varieties for seed), Idaho, Colorado, and California.

Foreign countries

Competition with United States production is felt in this country particularly in the supply from the lower Danube region reshipped here principally from Marseille, Antwerp, and German and Italian ports, in the supply from Japan, and also from Chile. The types grown in the Danube region compete principally with our white beans, although small amounts of colored beans are also imported from Europe. Total common bean production reported for Rumania, Hungary and Austria is now placed at 8,662,000 bushels for 1930 compared with 11,676,000 for 1929 and an average of 10,126,000 in the years, 1924-1928. Production in Bulgaria, according to unofficial estimates, is below last year's large crop but above average. The reduced crop in Rumania is still large enough to supply the average domestic requirement and leave a balance for export. Rumanian production in 1930, according to the revised official estimate, is 7,421,000 bushels compared with 9,518,000 in 1929.

The quality of the crop in France appears to be better than was indicated by reports the beginning of the season. Stocks coming into Paris and Marseille are reported as satisfactory in quality. Rumanian beans coming to Marseille are also reported to be of good quality. The quality of the Hungarian crop is reported as having been hurt by the drought.

Competition from Japan has been especially keen this year. Production of large and small whites has been increasing rapidly from about 276,000 bushels in 1926 to 1,865,000 bushels, the revised estimate for 1930. This class of bean is an important export type and the United States an important market. Nagauzuras, similar to long cranberries, which are also exported more or less to the United States, have also increase in production from 417,000 bushels in 1926 to 645,000 in 1930. Production of these varieties is important even though the total quantity is not large, since much of the increase is available for export and thus can exert an important influence on world bean prices. The quality of the Japanese crop coming to this country is reported to be excellent. Early samples coming to Antwerp, however, were reported as not up to the standard of the 1929 crop which had been excellent.

JAPAN, HOKKAIDO PROVINCE: Production of dry beans by varieties, 1926-1930

Variety	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Otensahis (Large white) a/	276	430	524	1,193	1,865
Nagauzuras (long cranberry)	417	476	491	556	645
Chunagas b/	848	875	651	857	932
Kintokis and Benimames (red) c/	229	546	430	515	581
Daifukus d/	187	164	132	187	216
Shiromarus e/	79	47	33	56	58
Others	268	157	110	160	193
Total	2,304	2,695	2,371	3,524	4,490

Reports of the Hokkaido Government Farm Products Inspection Bureau.
a/ The figures for 1926, 1927 and 1928 included Kotenashis or small whites and it is believed that the figures for 1929 and 1930 include them also.
b/ Medium mottled bean somewhat like pinto. c/ In size and shape like the speckled cranberry. d/ Flat white bean, approximately the size and shape of great northern. e/ Round white, about the size of large marrow.

Chile in some years becomes a competitor of some importance in supplying white beans, red kidneys and cranberries and other varieties. The size of the crop now coming on the market is not yet known. Acreage is unofficially reported to be as large as last year, both for the total crop and for the varieties principally exported to the United States. Crop conditions have been favorable and reports indicated an increase in the use of fertilizer, so the prospects near the end of February were good for a crop as large as the large crop of 1929-30. Later reports, of course, may vary considerably from present indications. This crop in Chile, coming on the market in about the middle of the Northern Hemisphere marketing season, competes with both the current United States crop and the crop which is about to be planted.

Production of lima beans in Madagascar in 1930 is unofficially reported to be short, about 315,000 bushels, including broken, stained and second quality beans, compared with 504,000 bushels in 1929 and an average of 597,000 bushels in the 1924-1928 period. The quality of the 1930 crop is reported to be good.

Trade

United States

United States imports for the first six months of the current marketing season have been more than normally heavy in spite of our large crop. Total dry bean imports for the six months ended February, 1931, equaled 866,000 bushels, exclusive of black eyes, or 892,000, including black eyes, compared with the record importation of 1,439,000 in the corresponding period of 1929-30 and an average of 696,000 in that period of the years 1924-25 to 1928-29. Exports and reexports have been below average so far this season, leaving net imports at 620,000 bushels compared with 1,021,000 the same six months last year and a 5-year average of 231,000 bushels.

Japan has been the most important source of our bean imports so far this season. The imports from Japan for the six months, September 1930 to February 1931, amounting to 524,000 bushels, have been heavier than the total from that source in the 12-month period in recent years with three exceptions, 1929-30, 1927-28, and 1924-25. Imports from Japan started coming in in quantity in December when about three-fourths of our imports were from that source. In January and February about nine-tenths of our imports came from Japan.

Otenashis or large whites probably make up the bulk of our takings from Japan this season, but nagauzuras or long cranberries and kotenashis or small whites are also being imported, and probably small quantities of chunagauzuras, or medium mottled beans. Some light is thrown on the proportions of the different varieties imported by reports of exports from Japan from the 1929 crop. In that year the Japanese crop of otenashis and kotenashis was 1,193,000 bushels, total exports of those varieties were reported at 913,000 bushels and exports to the United States were 588,000 bushels. Nagauzura production was placed at 556,000 bushels, total exports at 451,000 bushels and exports to the United States at 369,000 bushels. Chunagauzura production was placed at 857,000 bushels, total exports at 39,000 bushels and exports to the United States at 14,000 bushels. The total reported exports of these three varieties to the United States amounted to 969,000 bushels. The United States figure on total imports from Japan for the year beginning September 1, 1929, was 1,001,000 bushels. Considering the possibilities of having cargoes rerouted during the voyage, the figures from the two sources show a close similarity.

Bean imports from Europe so far this season have been less than half as great as those from Japan. Europe was an important source of our imports the first three months of the current season when half to two-thirds of our takings came from there. Information available indicates that the takings from Europe have been mostly white beans and red kidneys with possibly some cranberries. Among the white beans imported are pea beans, marrows and white kidneys.

Takings from Chile have been fairly heavy for this season of the year. The new crop marketing season begins about February in some parts of Chile, but the heavy export season usually does not start until about April. In October Chile was an important source of our imports, sending us over 30,000 bushels which was more than any other single country, and over a quarter of our total takings for the month. Since then Chile has been a less prominent source. Bean imports from Chile this season have included araucanos or cranberries, frutillas or large cranberries, some white beans and probably some red kidneys. No information is available as to the proportions of the different varieties imported.

DRY BEANS: Imports into the United States by country of origin and exports, 1923-1930

Country and movement	Year beginning Sept. 1							Sept. 1-Feb. 28		
	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1928	1929	1930
	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.
EUROPE										
France	94	142	206	277	335	27	75	10	62	55
Belgium	0	30	49	111	337	37	37	16	20	17
Italy	65	177	253	253	104	36	123	21	98	58
Germany	2	41	91	68	212	36	157	26	108	35
Netherlands	15	37	46	38	59	23	38	22	28	17
Hungary	0	13	7	22	44	1	170	1	166	28
Austria	0	3	19	10	19	2	21	2	21	1
Czechoslovakia	0	15	2	6	15	2	6	2	3	2
Rumania	1	7	9	0	2	7	25	6	18	5
Poland	0	2	2	10	11	0	16	a/	13	5
Greece	0	0	3	2	1	1	2	1	2	1
Total above continental European countries	177	467	687	797	1,139	172	670	107	539	224
United Kingdom	101	87	7	3	48	68	110	16	6	1
ASIA										
Japan	440	565	350	369	639	483	1,001	262	634	524
Hongkong	31	33	40	38	54	39	38	18	16	17
China	5	12	10	13	12	18	13	7	5	3
Kwantung	0	2	0	2	3	0	4	0	2	0
NORTH AMERICA										
Canada	15	35	60	14	146	42	214	17	146	4
Mexico	11	19	9	13	109	68	b/ 26	51	19	b/ 19
Dominican Republic	1	0	0	4	6	17	33	a/	7	1
Cuba	1	2	2	2	2	1	b/ 17	1	1	14
SOUTH AMERICA										
Chile	27	92	3	43	304	314	233	59	42	45
Argentina	1	25	10	3	18	10	12	3	7	12
Peru	0	1	0	0	1	15	3	7	2	1
AFRICA										
Madagascar	58	90	3	0	0	44	37	1	0	0
Other countries	c/ 42	10	12	d/ 26	10	14	21	6	13	1
Total imports	910	1,440	1,193	1,327	2,471	1,304	b/ 2,432	555	1,439	b/ 866
Exports plus reexports	999	784	889	881	667	645	b/ 540	300	418	346
Net imports	e/ 89	656	304	446	1,804	659	1,892	255	1,021	b/ 620

Compiled from records of Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.
a/ Less than 500. b/ Exclude blackeye since June 18, 1930. c/ Of this amount 35,000 bushels came from British South Africa. d/ Of this amount 17,000 bushels came from British India. e/ Net exports.

Imports from Chile may be facilitated by an export premium granted about two months ago by the Chilean Government, amounting to 60 cents per 100 pounds for bayos, araucanos (cranberries), frutillas (large cranberries), small reds, and arroz or small pea beans. The premium for milagros (marrows) is equivalent to 82 cents per 100 pounds. No premium is granted for triguitos (large pea beans) or red kidneys.

Imports from Canada have been light in spite of the fact that Canada produced a crop about as large as last year principally of pea beans which are short in this country.

Imports of limas appear to have been light so far this season. None have been reported as coming direct from Madagascar, the most important foreign source of limas. Some limas are reexported to this country by way of the United Kingdom. Imports of all kinds of beans from the United Kingdom have been light so far this season. Peru is also a minor source of beans called limas and bean imports from Péru have been smaller than in the correspon ing periods of the past two seasons.

Beginning with June 18, 1930, United States import figures show imports of black eyes separately, whereas from 1925 to 1930 they had been included with the reports of total bean imports. In the season, September 1 to February 28, the United States has imported 26,000 bushels of black eyes, 24,000 of them coming from Cuba. From June 18 to August 31, 10,000 bushels came in. Of the total imports coming from Cuba since September 1, nearly two-thirds have been black eyes. The balance coming from Mexico has been small in relation to total bean imports from that country. No imports of black eyes have been reported since the first of November.

Rumania

Figures on exports from Rumania are available only through November. Exports in the three months, September-November, totaled 885,000 bushels. It is estimated that exports in December were only about 110,000 bushels, making a total for the four months about 995,000 bushels, which is less than in that period in any of the preceding five years except 1928-29, when they totaled 721,000 bushels. Average exports in this period have been over 1,450,000 bushels. Exports from January through August the past five years have always been less than in the first four months of the season.

Stocks and exportable surpluses

United States

California is the only State for which any definite figures of stocks on hand are available. Total warehouse stocks in California on March 1, 1931, were over twice as great as a year ago, totaling about 2,553,000 bushels of 60 pounds compared with 1,273,000 bushels on March 1, 1930. The year 1927 was the only one of the past five when March 1 stocks approached those of this year. In that year stocks equaled about 2,648,000 bushels. The average for the past five years was about 1,580,000 bushels.

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The greatest increase is in black eyes, for which stocks this year were 591,000 bushels compared with 90,000 last year, when stocks of that variety were comparatively low. Stocks of pinks equaled 398,000 bushels compared with 311,000 bushels as year ago and a 5-year average of 356,000 bushels. Regular limas equaled 571,000 bushels of 56 pounds compared with 428,000 bushels in 1930 and an average of 524,000 bushels. Baby lima stocks equaled 485,000 bushels compared with only 139,000 a year ago and average stocks of 177,000 bushels. Stocks of small whites at 309,000 bushels were above the large stocks of 192,000 last year. Large whites, at 23,000 bushels, were nearly double last year's March 1 stocks. Red kidneys at 24,000 were nearly two and a half times the small supply a year ago, and above the average. Stocks of pintos at 98,000 bushels were nearly two and a half times as great as last year's record stocks.

California's stocks cannot be considered as an index of stocks for the country as a whole, but for varieties which are grown and marketed in quantity in other regions as well, it is probable that heavy stocks in California tend to reflect large stocks in other parts of the country. Such a generalization may be doubtful for red kidneys, for which class United States production was below normal this year and for which prices have been high compared to other classes of beans.

United States car-lot shipments reported by the Hay, Feed and Seed Division, from September 1 to February 28, have not been as large this season as in the past two seasons in spite of a larger crop. Total shipments this season amounting to 12,190 cars were 10 per cent less than for the corresponding season last year, although the crop was nearly 7 per cent larger. Shipments this season have been slightly smaller than the shipments of the same period of 1928-29, while the 1930 crop was 25 per cent larger than that of 1928. These figures appear to indicate a larger supply still at points of origin than in the past two years, but no definite conclusions can be drawn for two reasons. In the first place, lack of information on carry-over at the beginning of the season leaves doubt as to the amounts of shipments which represent movement of the crops of the current seasons. In the second place, the quantity of beans to the car varies considerably from region to region and also some from year to year. There is a further question as to the proportion of the shipments which have been going into consumption and the proportion going into storage at terminal warehouses.

Foreign countries

Bean surpluses in the producing countries seem to be plentiful. In the concentration centers there has been little evidence of any piling up of stocks, but the lack of supplies probably reflects hand-to-mouth orders by dealers rather than any shortage of supplies available at primary sources. At Marseille stocks on hand in February were estimated by

dealers to have averaged about 30,000 bushels which is negligible from a normal standpoint, although larger than in the two or three preceding months. There were no appreciable stocks at Antwerp at the end of February.

A statistical computation for Rumania indicates the balance available for export or carry-over as of January 1 to be larger than at that time a year ago. The balance is computed on the basis of total production less an average annual domestic consumption, and exports for the four months, September-December. Export figures for December 1930 are only a rough approximation of the probable amount. To the supply for the 1930 season an estimate of nearly one and a half million bushels carry-over was added, whereas it was assumed that a year ago there was no carry-over. The low prices may have been fostering a greater domestic consumption than usual, which would cut down the surplus somewhat. Even after making some allowance for such consumption it is probable that there is a balance of well over a million bushels available for export. Last year exports in the last eight months of the season amounted to 426,000 bushels.

Japan

It is probable that there is still a large balance available for export or carry-over in Japan. Production of all common beans in 1930 was 966,000 bushels larger than the record crop of 1929, and production of otenashis 672,000 bushels larger than in 1929. United States bean imports from Japan for the first six months were slightly smaller than for the same period the preceding year, and reports of lack of interest in Japanese beans in European markets suggests a reduction in Japanese exports to Europe. Unless Japanese consumption has been unusually large it seems likely, therefore, that stocks are heavy.

Chile

Stocks in Chile about the middle of February 1931, estimated by the trade at 16,000 to 23,000 bushels, were not considered large but were stated to exceed those on hand at the same time a year earlier.

Prices

United States

Bean prices have been falling somewhat the past four months, but the fall has not been heavy compared with the drastic declines from September to November. Pea beans at New York which had fallen from an average of $8.33 per 100 pounds wholesale in September to $5.78 in November, went down an additional 66 cents to an average of $5.12 in March. By March 31, they were down to $5.00. Great northerns at New York

fell from an average of $5.12 in December to $4.38 in March and $4.13 by March 31. Medium marrows, which had been higher in price than pea beans in November, at $6.94 per 100 pounds, had fallen to an average of $5.02 in March and $4.70 by March 31. Red kidneys, which had fallen from $12.73 in September to $8.03 in November, increased to $9.47 in March. There has been a downward tendency in red kidney bean prices in February and March and on March 31 they were down to $9.33. Limas in New York, which had fallen from an average of $12.08 per 100 pounds in September to $8.82 in November, went down an additional $1.24 to $7.58 in March and $7.43 by March 31.

Farm bean prices in Colorado, which are indicative of the Colorado farm prices of pintos, fell from $4.40 September 15 to $2.15 December 15, since which time they have remained fairly constant, being reported at $2.10 on March 15.

Average high and low California prices f.o.b. shipping point for pinks, which fell from about $6.02 September 13 to $3.93 November 22, were being quoted at about $3.75 March 28. Small reds, which sold at about $4.68 September 13 and about $3.52 November 22, fell comparatively heavily by March 28 to $2.55. Cranberries, which were selling at about $6.78 September 1 and $4.82 November 22, rose to $5.65 by March 28. In New York, on the other hand, there was a slightly downward tendency for round cranberries during March.

Foreign prices

In Canada pea bean prices, wholesale, at Toronto fell from $4.50 per 100 pounds in November to $3.75 in February and early March. Although Toronto prices are lower than domestic pea beans at New York, they are not enough lower to pay the United States tariff which helps to explain the light imports of beans from Canada.

Prices of white beans at Antwerp from November to February followed a course generally similar to that of domestic pea beans in New York, but prices at Marseille have held up better. Small flats at Antwerp showed a slight strengthening tendency the latter part of February. Speckled beans and giant beans have been appearing in the Antwerp quotations in recent months. It is not known just what types of beans these are. The giants are probably from Poland. The speckled beans may be cranberries from the Danube region or from the Orient.

At Marseille cocos blancs, similar to pea beans, strengthened in January and February, when they were selling at about $3.46 per 100 pounds or more than they were bringing in October. Danubian common beans at Marseille were selling at $1.76 in February which was only slightly less than the $1.87 they brought in October. Rumanian prices are not yet available for February. In January at Galatz, a concentration port on the Danube, common beans were selling for $1.31 per 100 pounds or 51 cents less than at Marseille. The price at Galatz had fallen 33 cents since October,

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DRY BEANS: Price in New York, wholesale, per 100 pounds, September 1929-November 1930

Year and month	Domestic			Imported					
	Pea	Red kidney	Lima	Pea Europe	Marrow Europe	Lima Madagascar	Otenashi Japan a/	Nagauzura Japan b/	Frutilla Chile c/
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
1929-30									
Sept..	10.22	9.41	16.82	9.82	13.26	14.38	9.29	8.38	
Oct...	9.55	10.38	14.57	9.10	12.65		9.62	8.24	7.62
Nov...	8.12	9.06	12.60	7.75	10.65			7.88	7.62
Dec...	7.90	8.88	12.95	7.67	9.93		7.88	7.12	7.41
Jan...	7.96		12.28	7.43	9.97		7.78	7.12	7.38
Feb...	7.81		12.03	6.88	10.25		7.38	7.12	7.38
Mar...	7.34		12.75	6.88	9.44	10.80	7.25	6.62	6.35
Apr...	6.85		12.68	6.68	8.33	10.58	6.93	6.25	5.92
May...	7.12	9.78	12.69	6.74	8.25	10.62	7.00	6.38	6.00
June..	7.09	10.62	12.50	6.88	8.09	10.62	7.12	6.31	6.56
July..	6.90	11.37	12.03	6.88	7.62	10.45	7.12	6.12	6.38
Aug...	7.44	12.41	11.94	6.94	7.74	10.06	7.25	6.42	6.38
1930-31									
Sept..	8.33	12.73	12.08	7.92		10.38	8.02	8.72	6.53
Oct...	6.54	9.84	9.95	6.68	7.00	9.31		6.25	6.23
Nov...	5.78	8.03	8.82	6.19	6.44	8.18		5.94	5.67
Dec...	5.57	9.31	7.45	5.22	5.97	6.92	5.40	5.98	5.77
Jan...	5.50	9.75	7.50	5.19	5.68	6.78	5.23	6.31	5.94
Feb...	5.33	9.72	8.00	5.15	5.18	7.25	5.25	6.25	5.81
Mar...	5.12	9.47	7.58	4.97	4.81	6.92	4.99	6.08	4.93

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from the New York Journal of Commerce. The figures are averages of the quotations in Tuesday's issues. Prices are for choice goods in jobbing lots.

a/ Similar to large whites.

b/ Long cranberry.

c/ Large cranberry.

DRY BEANS: Price in foreign markets per 100 pounds, September 1929 - October 1930

Year and month	Antwerp for early delivery f.o.b.					Marseille a/			Galatz
	Pearl	Medium marrow	Medium kidney	Small flat	Large flat	Otenashi	Cocos blancs	Danubian	Common beans b/
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
1929-30									
Sept.	5.07	5.88	5.86	4.46	5.02		8.89	3.42	3.19
Oct.	6.22	7.24	7.10	5.71	6.04		8.78	4.45	c/ 4.08
Nov.	6.20	6.95	7.73	5.74	6.10		8.44	4.64	c/ 3.88
Dec.	5.46	6.42	7.20	5.28	5.57		8.20	4.19	3.40
Jan.	5.10	5.88	6.82	4.98	5.70			4.30	3.17
Feb.	4.69	5.33	6.62	4.52	5.22		5.08	3.45	2.64
Mar.	4.59	4.67	6.26	3.67	4.38		3.59	2.82	2.29
Apr.	4.30	4.69	6.18	3.66	4.28		3.09	2.71	2.31
May	3.92	4.41	5.68	3.66	4.19			2.87	2.23
June	3.72	4.16	5.42	3.39	4.09	3.75		2.18	2.04
July	3.72	3.64	5.30	3.35	4.16	3.70			1.95
Aug.	4.15	4.01	5.34	3.99	4.53	4.25		3.53	2.59
1930-31									
Sept.	4.14	4.06	4.61	3.35	3.98				2.24
Oct.	3.50	3.75	4.41	2.96	3.62	2.54	3.30	1.87	1.64
Nov.	3.11	3.36	4.22	2.69	3.31	2.46	3.58	1.87	1.47
Dec.	2.87	3.97	3.85	2.48	3.13	2.13	3.22	1.80	1.37
Jan.	2.87	2.84	3.52	2.41	3.09	2.11	3.29	1.82	1.31
Feb.	2.89	2.90	3.20	2.41	3.08		3.46	1.76	

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from reports of the consular service at the markets listed.

a/ c.i.f. Marseille. Recent prices are on the basis of 6 per cent tolerance in bulk either afloat or for immediate shipment.

b/ In carlots at store-houses or railway station or port line. These prices are similar to those previously published under this heading except that these are averages of prices reported for the month, whereas earlier prices were as of about the 15th of the month.

c/ Price at Braila.

but there was a tendency to increase the last of January and at the end of the month common beans were selling for $1.36. Marrow beans at Galats were quoted on January 29 at $1.52 per 100 pounds as compared with $5.38 for European average marrows at New York about that time.

In Chile, on February 21, 1931, triguitos, or large pea beans, were selling at $1.92 per 100 pounds in warehouse at port of embarcation and arroz or small pea beans at $1.98, when domestic pea beans were selling at New York for $5.25. Marrows in Chile were selling at $2.03 compared with $5.25 for average marrows at New York. Frutillas, or large cranberries sold at $2.31 in Chile and large araucanos, also described as cranberries, at $2.53 when round cranberries were quoted in New York at $6.25 to $6.50. Red kidneys sold at $5.39 in Chile compared with $9.50 to $9.75 in New York.

Market conditions

Bean markets in the United States have been generally dull throughout the winter. There are reports of growers' reluctance to sell at prevailing prices. Lack of rainfall in March was a contributing factor in California to the lack of selling pressure. In Europe, markets were generally dull, although in Antwerp there was some improvement noticeable in February. Beans from Poland are a factor in western European markets, but the competition from Russia which was feared earlier in the season has not become a prominent factor.

At Antwerp market conditions improved somewhat in February. Demand was steady and active, although not brisk. Marrow beans were in good demand towards the close of the month. Slowing up of trade due to the freezing of the Danube together with shortage of stocks contributed to the general improvement. Offers were more liberal from the Black Sea ports, which tended to weaken quotations for future deliveries. Japanese beans were neglected for future shipment, but buyers continued to manifest interest in hearby floating lots which obtained a fair premium.

At Marseille business continued dull in February, with foreign demand light. This demand usually comes chiefly from the United States and no orders were received from this country during the month. Demand for local consumption was poor and was fully met by the local production. Seed dealers' requirements were making themselves felt in Paris early in February, having set in a month or two earlier than usual, buyers believing that prices had reached bottom. "Giant" beans from Poland, appearing on the Paris market during the winter, were well liked.

In Rumania, business was stagnant at the river ports and interior markets in January. Transactions at Constanza, on the Black Sea, were heavier than in December.

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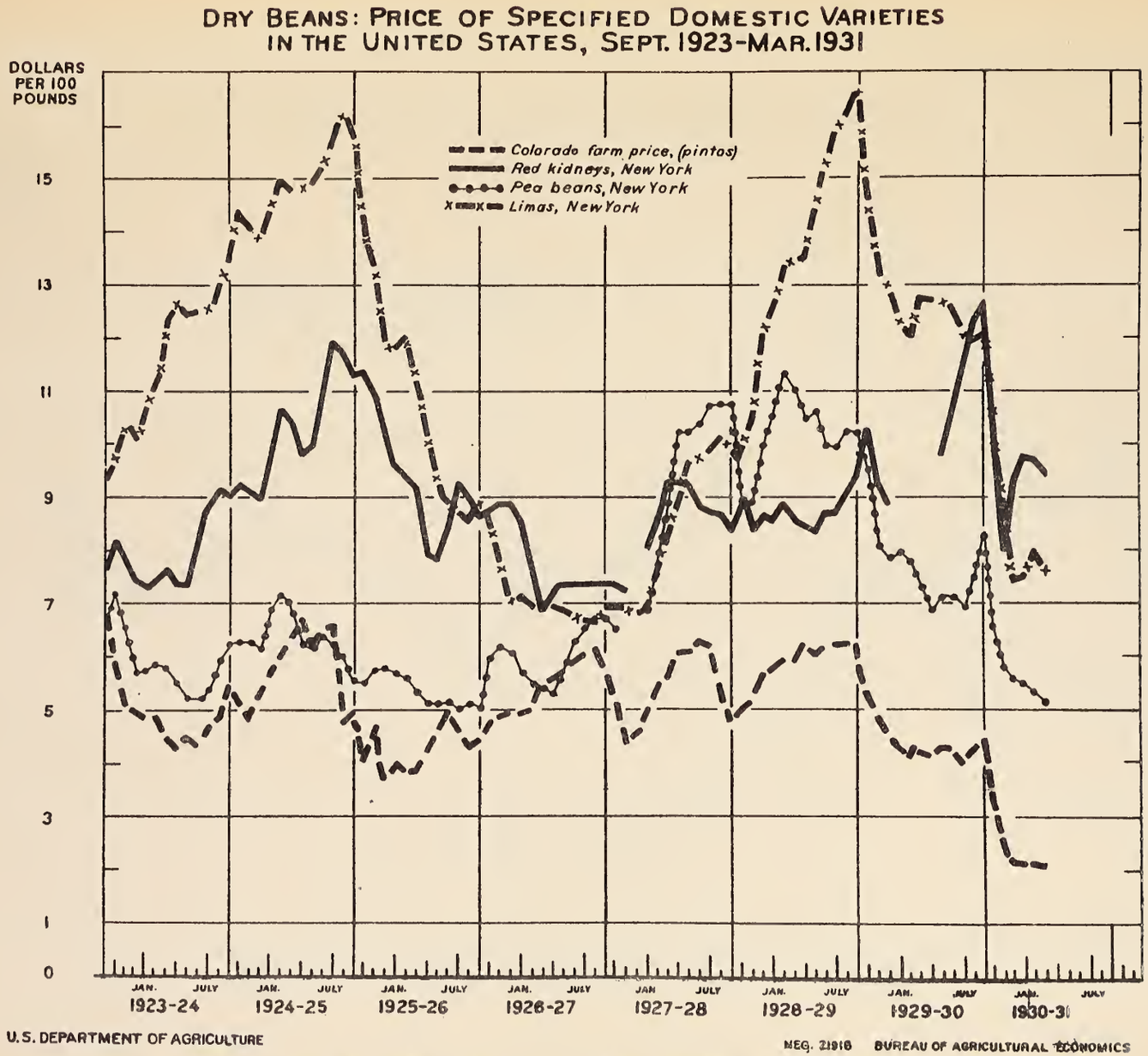

FIGURE 1 - BEAN PRICES HAVE BEEN FALLING SOMEWHAT DURING THE PAST FOUR MONTHS, BUT THE FALL HAS NOT BEEN HEAVY COMPARED WITH THE DECLINES FROM SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER, 1930

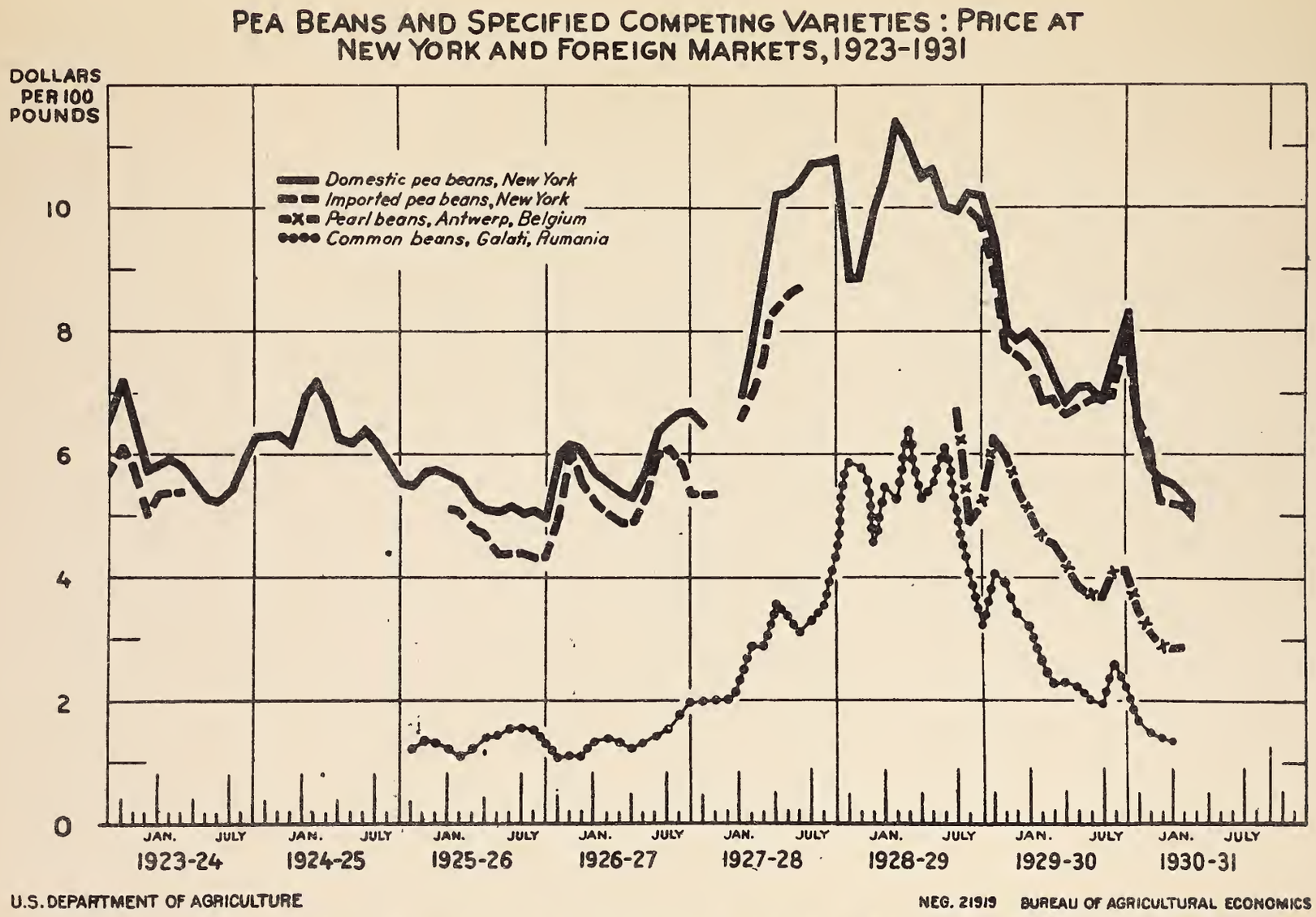

FIGURE 2 - PRICES OF BEANS IN EUROPEAN MARKETS WHICH COMPETE WITH PEA BEANS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE USUALLY LOWER THAN PRICES IN NEW YORK, BUT TEND TO FOLLOW A GENERALLY SIMILAR COURSE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

B-2 August 8, 1931

WORLD DRY BEAN PROSPECTS a/

Early bean planting reports for Rumania and Japan, two of the most important foreign competitors in United States bean markets, indicate a material decrease in acreage in those countries. In Japan the decrease was especially great in large and small whites, which varieties have been offering keen competition to those classes in our markets this year. The decrease is great enough so that yields would have to be much above average to produce crops there equal to last year's production. With average yields on the reported areas the reduction in production in the two countries would more than offset the increases over 1930 in the July forecast of the United States crop. Weather in the United States since the date of the July forecast has been not entirely favorable to the bean crop in some important localities. The detailed reports in the July forecast show an increase in the States producing pea beans and red kidneys, a net decrease in the States producing pintos and a slight net decrease in the States producing great northerns.

Stocks appear to be larger than a year ago in most surplus producing countries as well as the United States. Indications available of exportable surpluses show a noticeable increase over a year ago in Japan, but in

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a/ The statements on foreign bean conditions other than official reports are based on reports of Agricultural Attache L. G. Michael at Belgrade, Agricultural Commissioner O. L. Dawson at Shanghai, Consuls General Garrels at Tokyo and Thomas D. Bowman at Santiago, Consuls John Randolph at Bucharest, Walter S. Reineck at Antwerp, John S. Calvert at Marseille, John H. Morgan at Budapest, Leonard Dawson at Vera Cruz, Ellis A. Bennett, at Durango, Paul H. Foster at Piedras Negras, and William A. Small, at Ensenada, Vice Consuls Camden L. McLain at Santiago and Maurice Pasquet at Paris; Commercial Attache William A. Hodgman, including translation of article on Hungarian Bean Situation by Julius Winterstern, senior chief of F. Winterstern & Sohn, prominent produce dealers in Budapest.

Rumania only a little if any more than a year ago. Increases in stocks will probably be more than offset by decreases in production in those two countries.

United States imports have continued fairly heavy through June in spite of plentiful supplies of domestic beans. Recent imports have come mostly from Japan and Chile.

Prices have continued to fall in recent months especially in the case of red kidneys, limas and small whites. Prices have been fairly steady in June and July for great northerns, pintos and cranberries. Pinto prices have shown little change since April.

1931 Production Prospects

Total acreage reported to date for common beans in 4 countries amounts to 4,044,000 acres compared with 4,576,000 acres in 1930 and an average of 4,226,000 in the preceding 4 years. Much of the total indicated decrease is in Rumania, but the United States, Japan and Canada also report decreases in acreage. The July forecast of production in the United States was larger than the 1930 crop in spite of the decrease in acreage but weather conditions since the date of that forecast have not been entirely favorable.

Acreage of dry edible beans in specified countries, 1925-1931

Country	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931 Preliminary
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
NORTH AMERICA							
United States	1,606	1,677	1,569	1,641	1,960	2,142	2,071
Canada	81	72	67	70	86	99	93
Mexico	2,446	2,604	2,454	2,193	1,812	1,794	a/
EUROPE							
Rumania							
Grown alone	276	264	248	189	198	220	b/(1,693)
Grown with corn	1,876	2,065	1,979	2,109	2,116	1,894	
Hungary							
Grown alone	-	-	10	8	10	15	c/
Grown with corn	-	-	941	560	604	933	
Bulgaria							
Grown alone	-	152	152	128	138	-	-
Grown with corn	-	94	104	109	-	-	-
ASIA							
Japan, Hokkaido province	-	134	137	139	183	221	187
SOUTH AMERICA							
Chile	107	124	164	164	164	164	
Total countries reporting in 1931		4,212	4,000	4,148	4,543	4,576	4,044

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from official sources except as otherwise noted.

a/ Scattered reports indicate about an average acreage in some States but reports cannot be considered as representative of conditions for the country as a whole.

b/ Unofficial trade estimates reported by Consul John Randolph.

c/ Trade reports state that acreage is larger than in 1930 according to Consul Morgan.

United States

Bean production in the United States is forecast on the basis of conditions up to July 1 at 22,695,000 bushels, an increase of 3.6 per cent over the crop of 1930 and 23.1 per cent over the 1925-1929 average.

The new forecast of August 10 may show considerable variation from the July figure due to poor growing weather during July in some regions. The increase over 1930 reported in July in some important producing States is based on indications of favorable early growing conditions. Michigan and Idaho are the only important bean producing States showing increased acreage. Total bean acreage reported for the United States at 2,071,000 acres is 3.3 per cent below the revised estimate for 1930. The flowering season is a critical period for the bean crop in many areas and forecasts of production made after flowering may show some fairly wide variations from the July forecasts. Reports have been received by the Hay, Feed and Seed Division of poor growing conditions in July in some of the important producing areas.

The July forecast by States does not give data on probable production by varieties. The figures by States show an increase in Michigan and New York, the important pea bean States. Red kidney production is also important in those States and some of the increase is probably in that variety. Weather conditions in Michigan have not been favorable in July, however. A slight decrease in great northern production is suggested by a decrease in the forecast for Idaho, Montana and Wyoming where much of the great northern crop is grown. Hot weather in parts of the great northern producing region together with absence of irrigation water have been detrimental to the crop. A decrease in pinto production is indicated by decreases in the total of production forecasts for Colorado and New Mexico. Growing conditions in Colorado were reported to be unfavorable in July, but in New Mexico they were generally good.

UNITED STATES: Acreage of dry edible beans, 1925-1931

Country	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931 Prel
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
United States:							
Michigan	639	552	566	538	694	780	842
New York	135	97	75	80	100	120	113
Idaho	72	54	72	86	92	115	122
Montana	37	43	32	40	60	60	56
Wyoming	12	16	17	24	31	33	31
Colorado	320	378	281	309	350	385	316
New Mexico	114	195	195	214	225	227	193
California	240	305	296	307	339	363	334
Others	37	37	35	43	69	59	64
Total United States	1,606	1,677	1,569	1,641	1,960	2,142	2,071

Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates.

Rumania

Trade reports current in Rumania place the total bean acreage there at about 1,693,000 acres, which is a reduction of 20 per cent below the official estimate for 1930, and 25 per cent below the average for the 5 years 1925-1929. The official estimate is not yet available. It is not known how the 1931 area is divided between beans grown alone and beans grown with corn and other crops. It is difficult to interpret the total acreage figure in terms of probable crop due to uncertainties of the distribution of the acreage between beans sown alone and those sown with other crops, as well as variations in yields. Since yields last year were above average it seems probable that production will be below that of 1930. In recent years 87 to 92 per cent of the total bean acreage has been devoted to beans grown in connection with other crops where the average yield has been less than 3 bushels to the acre, while the beans sown alone produce on an average nearly 11 bushels to the acre. If the distribution of the 1931 acreage approximates that of last year which was about the average of recent years, the 1,693,000 acres reported, with yields

equal to the average would produce less than 6,million bushels of beans, compared with 7,421,000 bushels the latest estimate for 1930. Were the percentage of area of beans sown alone as great as in 1925 and yields equal to the highest in recent years the 1,693,000 acres could produce a crop of 8 million bushels. On the other hand with an unfavorable acreage combination with low yields the 1,693,000 acres might produce a crop as low as 3,500,000 bushels. Sowings in Rumania took place under favorable weather conditions and early growing conditions are reported to have been favorable. Since July and early August form a critical period in the growth of the plant in many producing countries, the reports prior to that period give little indication of the probable yield.

Hungary

The area sown is reported by merchants to be greater than that sown last year. The increase is said to be due to the proportionally higher price paid for beans compared to wheat, and to propaganda on the part of the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry is said to favor bean production rather than production of wheat as an export crop since beans are reported to have less competition to meet on the world's markets.

Since 1929 the Ministry of Agriculture has been supplying bean producers, through the Chambers of Agriculture, with high class bean seeds at moderate prices. As a result the quality of beans is reported to have improved steadily. Hungarian surpluses are principally white beans competing with pea beans, marrows, large and small whites. At the initiative of the Hungarian exporters the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture is reported to have taken measures to produce for export in future not only small white beans but also long and flat beans.

Since October 1930, the warehouse in the Csepel free port has been equipped with an up-to-date bean handling station and the export beans are sorted there.

Japan

In Hokkaido province of Japan, where practically all of the commercial common bean crop of that country is produced, bean acreage for 1931 is officially reported at 186,600 acres a reduction of nearly 16 per cent below the large acreage of 1930 but about 15 per cent above the 1926-1930 average. Crop conditions have been reported to be poor. There has been a decided upward trend in bean acreage in this province in recent years and much of the increase has been in the tenashi varieties, the otenashi or large white and kotenashi or small white. The increased production in these two varieties has brought heavy shipments to the United States where they have offered severe competition to our large and small whites and pea beans. Acreage of the tenashi varieties rose from 16,961 acres in 1926 to 84,054 acres in 1930. The 1931 acreage of tenashis is reduced to 54,300 acres, 35 per cent less than in 1930.

The Nagauzura, or long cranberry is also shipped to this country in important quantities. There has been an upward trend in Nagauzura acreage also in recent years but it has been much less marked than in the case of the tenashi beans. The 1931 acreage reported at 28,800 acres is 12 per cent less than that of 1930.

Tentative production estimates figured on the basis of yields in the past 5 years suggest a decided decrease in crop of the varieties which compete with United States varieties. Last year tenashi yields were above the average for the 1926-1930 period but much lower than in 1927. With average yields this year the tenashi acreage would produce 1,140,000 bushels compared with 1,865,000 bushels in 1930 and 1,193,000 in 1929. Nagauzura yields last year were the lowest of the past 5 years. Acreage reduction this year has been enough, however, so that even if yields were equal to the highest of the 5-year period the crop would still be slightly less than last year's 645,000 bushels. Chunaga production on the 1931 acreage now reported will probably also be less than in 1930.

Production of other classes of dry beans besides the three above mentioned may be not far from the total for those classes last year, acreage has been increased somewhat but yields are not likely to be higher than the high yields of 1930 and may be less. These other varieties, however, offer comparatively little competition to classes grown in the United States.

JAPAN: Acreage of common beans in Hokkaido province by varieties, 1926-1931

Variety	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931 Prel.
	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres
Otenashi and kotenashi (large and small white)	16,961	16,807	26,044	57,232	84,054	54,300
Nagauzura (Long cranberry	20,023	22,417	22,701	26,764	32,621	28,800
Chunaga a/	49,981	47,984	42,724	48,182	50,578	47,000
Kintoki b/	16,964	15,664	13,968	27,820	30,546	35,000
Benimame b/	c/	c/	12,261			
Daifuku d/	10,706	10,826	10,037	10,457	10,260	21,500
Shiromaru e/	4,630	3,594	2,768	2,622	2,784	
Other	c/ 14,522	c/ 19,977	8,405	9,853	10,057	
Total	133,787	137,269	138,908	182,930	220,900	186,600

Compiled from reports of the Hokkaido Government Farm Products Inspection Bureau.

a/ Medium mottled bean somewhat like pinto.
b/ In size and shape like the speckled cranberry.
c/ Benimames included with other beans.
d/ Flat white bean approximately the size and shape of the great northern.
e/ Round, white; about the size of large marrow.

Chile

Production of the 1930-31 bean crop in Chile which competes with United States beans of both the 1930 and 1931 crops is now reported at 2,482,000 bushels compared with 2,970,000 the preceding year and an average of 2,094,000 bushels in the 5 years 1924-25 to 1928-29. The quality of all classes of beans is reported to be inferior to the quality of the 1929-30 crop, due to unfavorable weather conditions at maturity.

Other countries

Early growing conditions are reported to be satisfactory in Poland and Bulgaria, both of which countries produce some surplus for export. No indication is available for acreage in either country.

In France, an important importing country, excessive rains in the planting season are reported to have delayed planting and the crop was expected to mature at a later date than usual. Late reports also mention a possible reduction in the size of the French crop.

Acreage in Canada, although smaller than in 1930 is larger than in any other recent year. Canada rarely produces much surplus for export but sometimes ships pea beans to the United States, replacing them with beans from other countries.

No report is available for the Mexican crop as a whole. In Vera Cruz where roughly 10 per cent of the crop of the country is grown present prospects are for a good crop of black beans. In Durango, a moderately important bean growing State, it was expected about the first of April that the bean acreage would be only average or less; corn was considered a safer crop. In the State of Coahuila, just south of Texas it was expected about the first of July the crop would be about average or about 3,000 bushels in the Piedras Negras district on the acreage usually devoted to beans, but additional supplies were expected from the new irrigated lands. An unusually large acreage had previously been expected there, quite a large supply of seed of both the pink and bayo varieties having been imported. In the Ensenada district, just south of San Diego, the acreage is reported to be considerably below normal with poor early growing conditions.

International Trade

Imports of beans into the United States have been about average so far this year in spite of the unusually large crop. Scant information on receipts here and on shipments from other countries indicate that the bulk of our imports have been large and small whites, pea beans, red kidneys and speckled cranberries. Exports from Japan have been heavy in the face of good supplies of most varieties in the United States and Europe. Exports from Rumania have been lagging this season as well as those from Chile, at least in 1931.

United States

Dry bean imports fell off noticeably in June but imports for the season have been maintained at a fairly high rate in spite of a large domestic crop. Net imports from September through June totaled 857,000 bushels compared with a record net import of 1,828,000 in the same period last year and an average of 643,000 in the preceding 5 years. Total imports from September through June amounted to 1,255,000 bushels compared with 2,340,000 bushels in that period of 1929-30 and an average of 1,292,000 in the preceding 5 years. Imports from Europe are now almost negligible, but imports from Japan are being maintained at a high level, the total for the season to date being not much less than the large imports last season. Otenashis and kotenashis, or large and small whites, form an important part of our takings from Japan with naguauzuras or speckled cranberries making up most of the remainder. Receipts from Chile began coming in again in April. In May and June Chile ranked next after Japan as a source of our bean imports. White beans and red kidneys are important varieties in our imports from Chile.

Exports and reexports of beans from the United States have not been up to the average, amounting to only 398,000 bushels in the first ten months of the season compared with 512,000 a year ago and an average of 649,000 the preceding 5 years.

DRY BEANS: Imports into the United States by country of origin and exports, 1923-1930

Country and movement	Year beginning Sept. 1							10 months beginning Sept. 1		
	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1928	1929	1930
	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.	1,000 bush.
EUROPE										
France	94	142	206	277	335	27	75	23	74	58
Belgium	0	30	49	111	337	37	337	33	36	17
Italy	65	177	253	253	104	36	123	21	102	59
Netherlands	15	37	46	38	59	23	38	23	37	17
Germany	2	41	91	68	212	36	157	34	155	35
Hungary	0	13	7	22	44	1	170	1	170	28
Austria	0	3	19	10	19	2	21	2	21	1
Czechoslovakia	0	15	2	6	15	2	6	2	5	2
Rumania	1	7	9	0	2	7	25	7	25	5
Poland	0	2	2	10	11	0	16	a/	16	6
Greece	0	0	3	2	1	1	2	1	2	2
Total above continental European countries	177	467	687	797	1,139	172	670	147	643	230
United Kingdom	101	87	7	3	48	68	110	61	110	1
ASIA										
Japan	440	565	350	369	639	483	1,001	452	976	786
Hongkong	31	33	40	38	34	39	38	34	34	31
China	5	12	10	13	12	18	13	14	12	8
Kwantung	0	2	0	2	3	0	4	--	4	--
NORTH AMERICA										
Canada	15	35	60	14	146	42	214	21	214	14
Mexico	11	19	9	13	109	68	b/ 26	66	25	b/ 21
Dominican Republic	1	0	0	4	6	17	33	13	30	19
Cuba	1	2	2	2	2	1	b/ 17	1	17	b/ 21
SOUTH AMERICA										
Chile	27	92	3	43	304	314	233	231	212	108
Argentina	1	25	10	3	18	10	12	3	7	12
Peru	0	1	0	0	1	15	3	14	3	1
AFRICA										
Madagascar	58	90	3	0	0	44	37	44	37	--
Other countries	c/ 42	10	12	d/ 26	10	14	21	9	16	3
Total imports	910	1,440	1,193	1,327	2,471	1,304	b/ 2,432	1,110	2,340	1,255
Exports plus reexports	999	784	889	881	667	645	540	497	512	398
Net imports	e/ 89	656	304	446	1,804	659	b/ 1,892	613	1,828	857

Compiled from records of Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.
a/ Less than 500. b/ Exclude blackeyes since June 18, 1930. Total imports of blackeyes from September 1 to June 30, 1930-31 amounted to 26,593 bushels, of which 2,372 bushels came from Mexico and 24,221 bushels from Cuba. c/ Of this amount 35,000 bushels came from British South Africa. d/ Of this amount 17,000 bushels came from British India. e/ Net exports.

Japan

Exports of beans including peas from Japan from September 1 through May this season amounted to 1,983,000 bushels believed to be mostly beans. Common bean exports in the same period of 1929-30 totaled about 1,410,000 bushels and peas only 505,000 bushels. Of this year's exports about 800,000 bushels were shipped direct to the United States, 670,000 bushels to England, and 20,000 to Canada. Invoices to the United States in that period included 261,000 bushels of otenashis and kotenashis, 152,000 bushels of nagauzuras, and 2,000 bushels of chunagauzuras. In addition about 38,000 bushels of nagauzuras were billed to Porto Rico and a few otenashis to the Philippines.

Rumania

Exports from Rumania through May including estimates for recent months by the National Export Institute totaled 1,171,000 bushels compared with 1,789,000 in the corresponding period last year and an average of 2,051,000 in the preceding 5 years. Direct exports to the United States have been negligible this season.

Chile

Total exports of beans from Chile for the period January through April amounted to only 130,000 bushels compared with 223,000 in the corresponding period last year. Few of these beans would be from the new crops. The export season usually begins in April although some early shipments may be made in February. The bulk of this year's exports are reported to have been going to Germany and England.

Movement of Beans in the United States

Reports of car-lot shipments of dry beans from important producing States from September through June total 16,626 cars for the current season compared with 17,193 cars in that period of 1929-30, in spite of an increase in production in 1930. Decreases have occurred in Michigan and New York where 1930 production was smaller than in 1929. The total car-lot movement reported from Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, the important great northern producing States, is only slightly larger than that of a year ago. Total carloads shipped from Colorado and New Mexico, the important pinto growing States, have been nearly 22 per cent greater than a year ago from a crop only 15 per cent greater. From California, on the other hand, the number of cars shipped was about 25 per cent less than last year from a crop 22 per cent larger than the preceding year. It should be borne in mind that the quantity of beans to a car varies considerably at different times and different places, and also that shipments from producing States do not necessarily indicate movement into consuming channels. In some cases, large quantities are stored in warehouses outside of the State where they are produced. Furthermore beans that have been moved to consuming areas are not necessarily moved into consuming channels.

Car-lot shipments of dry beans, September-June 1928-29 to 1930-31 a/

State	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31 Preliminary
	Cars	Cars	Cars
Michigan	5,947	5,111	4,453
New York	833	1,015	937
Idaho	1,957	2,357	2,409
Montana	565	690	564
Wyoming	345	569	739
Colorado	1,667	2,201	4,099
New Mexico	544	1,627	550
California	2,818	3,397	2,571
Others	119	226	304
Total United States	14,795	17,193	16,626

Hay, Feed and Seed Division.
a/ Car-lots contain varying quantities of beans ranging from about 670 to about 1,000 bushels.

Stocks

There is little question that stocks of old crop beans are considerably heavier than at this time last year in the United States and somewhat heavier in foreign surplus countries. California warehouse stocks are over three times as great as last year and over twice the average of recent years. Stocks of pintos are apparently also heavy while stocks of great northerns appear to be heavier than last year. Indications are that stocks in Michigan and New York are not heavy. Stocks in Michigan are said to be practically all pea beans, the red kidney supplies being about exhausted.

Stocks for export reported in Japan are much heavier than a year ago. Scanty data indicate a slight increase in stocks in Rumania. In the European concentration points, Marseille and Antwerp, stocks appear to be light, due probably to lack of demand to bring them from the producing countries rather than to lack of available supplies. Chilean stocks are probably somewhat lighter than a year ago.

United States

California is the only State for which definite reports are available on stocks for a series of years. Total stocks in Californis warehouses on July 1 reached 1,432,000 bushels compared with 431,000 in 1930 and an average of 649,000 in the past 5 years. Thdy were more than the stocks on the corresponding date in any of the past 6 years. The increase in warehouse stocks in California compared with last year is not so great, however, as the decrease reported in 1931 production in that State according to the July forecast.

The heavy increases in stocks over last year and over the average were in black eyes, small and large whites, pinks, pintos and limas. Stocks of red kidneys, small reds and cranberries were below the average for the past 5 years.

Stocks of dry beans, black eyes and chick peas in California warehouses on July 1, average 1926-1930, annual 1926-1931

Variety	Average 1926-1930	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
Large white	9,998	29,532	7,090	4,143	3,238	5,985	16,955
Small white	62,221	99,578	15,635	49,952	47,492	98,448	204,755
Pink	137,079	194,723	182,330	138,882	92,687	76,773	211,067
Pinto	5,513	1,785	1,845	3,003	3,875	17,057	73,415
Cranberry	9,442	6,227	18,448	10,177	2,712	9,647	4,518
Small red	65,221	101,538	52,782	91,018	53,942	26,827	48,120
Red kidney	10,510	3,553	20,555	17,262	9,127	2,053	9,087
Bayo	5,929	910	12,690	13,267	1,605	1,173	7,803
Lima, regular....	174,545	130,695	492,686	116,817	24,002	108,524	228,309
Lima, baby	63,604	31,703	194,652	30,410	25,869	35,385	265,691
Miscellaneous....	8,705	18,055	14,305	4,080	2,560	4,528	3,117
Total above ...	552,767	618,299	1,013,018	479,011	267,109	386,400	1,072,837
Black eye	93,703	83,648	239,672	100,585	3,682	40,927	359,238
Garbanzo (chick pea)	2,311	2,532	1,813	2,828	227	4,153	157
Total	648,781	704,479	1,254,503	582,424	271,018	431,480	1,432,232

Converted from figures in terms of 100 pound bags as reported by the California Bean Dealers' Association. Lima beans are converted on the basis of 56 pounds to the bushel, all others 60 pounds.

Stocks

Japan

Bean stocks for export in Japan on July 1 are reported at 450,000 bushels of otenashis compared with about 30,000 bushels a year earlier, and about 110,000 bushels of nagauzuras compared with about 25,000 a year ago. Unless the current crop in Hokkaido province gives unusually good yields it seems likely on the basis of present acreage figures that the reduction in the 1931 crop will more than offset the increase in stocks.

Rumania

No very definite indication is available on stocks in Rumania as compared with last year. Trade estimates have placed the exportable surplus on June 1 at about 460,000 bushels, but no corresponding figure is available for last year and it is not known whether this figure represents an estimate of total exportable surpluses or only the quantities in sight.

An approximate computation of the distribution of the Rumanian crop in recent years suggests a balance for export as of June 1 not far from that of a year ago, a little larger rather than smaller. The computation indicates that the balance available for domestic consumption and carry-over in 1929-30 after deducting exports and probable seed requirement was about 1,500,000 bushels greater than the average in recent years. Assuming this excess above average to represent carry-over, the total supply for 1930-31 would still be about 600,000 bushels less than for 1929-30. Exports through May 1931 according to preliminary reports were about 600,000 bushels less than a year ago and probable seed requirements for the reduced acreage possibly 200,000 bushels less, leaving a statistical balance for export and carry-over as of June 1 about 200,000 bushels more than a year earlier.

Rumania: Distribution of common dry bean crop

Year beginning Sept. 1	Production	Seed requirement a/	Exports: 12 months	Exports: 9 months ending May	Statistical balance for domestic consumption and carry-over
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Ave. 1924-25 1929-30	8,384	1,042	2,256	2,008	5,086
1924-25	b/11,720	1,010	b/c/1,962	b/c/1,872	8,748
1925-26	d/ 9,103	1,087	3,808	3,216	4,208
1926-27	9,236	1,039	2,856	2,384	5,341
1927-28	6,307	1,062	2,029	1,933	3,216
1928-29	4,420	1,071	906	851	e/ 2,443
1929-30	9,518	984	1,974	1,789	6,560
1930-31	7,421	(782)		1,171	

Division of Statistical and Historical Research.

a/ Approximation on the basis of 0.6 bushel to the acre for beans grown alone and 0.45 bushel for beans grown with other crops as reported by Consul Childs quoting the Ministry of Agriculture.

b/ A large crop of poor quality not in demand for export.

c/ Year beginning July 1.

d/ The total supply was increased by a large carry-over of poor quality beans from the preceding harvest.

e/ Carry-over out of 1928-29 year is reported to have been a minimum.

Hungary

Stocks in Hungary are reported by the trade at only 7,000 to 9,000 bushels about the first of June. No comparable figure is available for last year.

Chile

Production in Chile harvested from February to May is about 500,000 bushels smaller than the crop a year earlier and stocks of old crop beans were completely disposed of before the first of May. A somewhat smaller surplus for export is indicated than the supplies available a year ago.

Prices

United States

Prices of most classes of beans have continued to sag the past 4 months in the United States, especially in the case of red kidneys and limas. Prices of red kidneys in New York fell from $9.44 per 100 pounds wholesale in March to $6.50 the last of July. Regular limas fell from $7.56 to $6.00 in the same period. Pea beans fell less drastically from $5.12 in March to $4.50 the end of July. Great northerns at Chicago fell from an average of $4.50 in March to $4.37 in May and then returned to $4.50 by July 1929. Pintos at Chicago were not quoted from December to March. They dropped from an average of $4.31 in November to $3.62 in April and have since held practically steady being quoted July 29 at $3.58. In California cranberry and black eye prices are not far from the level of mid-March, but prices of most other classes have been falling. Red kidneys fell from $9.32 in mid-March to $6.32 on July 29. Baby limas fell from $4.38 to $3.82 in the same period. Small whites fell from an average of $4.28 in March to $3.60 on July 29. Otenashis were quoted, duty paid, for immediate delivery at San Francisco on July 29 at $4.50 per 100 pounds and for August shipment at $4.70 per 100 pounds.

Prices of specified varieties of dry beans in United States markets, per 100 pounds, September 1929-July 1931

Year and month	New York			Chicago			San Francisco f.o.b. rail Calif.			
	Pea	Red kidney	Lima regular	Great northern	Pinto	Small white	Pink	Cranberry	Baby lima	Black eye
	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls
1929-30										
Sept.	10.22	9.43	16.76	9.97	7.15	-	6.38	7.88	10.70	7.38
Oct.	9.55	10.18	14.39	9.88	7.15	8.67	6.18	7.75	10.58	7.25
Nov.	8.12	9.11	13.27	8.21	6.54	8.55	5.95	7.25	10.38	7.08
Dec.	7.90	8.88	12.95	7.37	6.25	8.06	5.95	6.95	10.18	6.82
Jan.	7.96	9.14	12.28	7.25	6.49	7.38	5.55	6.82	9.68	7.00
Feb.	7.81	9.82	12.07	6.75	6.16	7.83	5.58	7.05	10.62	9.52
Mar.	7.34	10.31	12.71	6.25	6.21	8.12	5.40	7.88	11.12	11.62
Apr.	6.85	9.83	12.71	6.25	6.18	7.87	5.32	7.72	10.82	10.98
May	7.12	9.69	12.67	6.20	6.00	7.83	5.58	7.45	10.72	10.32
June	7.09	10.88	12.45	6.06	5.92	7.64	6.25	7.32	10.30	9.05
July	6.90	11.41	12.01	6.25	5.50	7.43	6.35	7.32	10.35	8.12
Aug.	7.44	12.48	11.95	6.31	5.99	6.99	6.38	6.78	10.32	6.62
1930-31										
Sept.	8.33	12.68	12.05	6.75	6.25	7.03	6.02	6.78	8.88	5.32
Oct.	6.54	9.83	9.90	6.25	6.25	6.09	4.45	5.68	5.80	4.02
Nov.	5.78	8.03	8.74	5.46	4.31	5.20	3.92	4.88	5.00	3.50
Dec.	5.57	9.49	7.37	5.20	-	4.86	4.08	5.30	4.82	3.20
Jan.	5.50	9.75	7.58	5.06	-	4.56	3.95	5.45	4.68	3.40
Feb.	5.33	9.67	7.94	4.82	-	4.51	3.90	5.82	5.00	3.10
Mar.	5.12	9.44	7.56	4.50	-	4.28	3.88	5.65	4.38	2.85
Apr.	4.96	8.95	7.50	4.46	3.62	4.24	3.68	5.52	4.60	3.15
May	5.00	8.16	7.40	4.37	3.59	4.27	3.42	5.42	4.45	3.15
June	4.76	7.27	6.55	4.60	3.58	4.02	3.38	5.68	3.95	2.95
July	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.12	5.68	3.70	2.80
29th	4.50	6.50	6.00	4.50	3.58	a/3.60	a/3.05	a/5.52	a/3.82	a/2.88

Division of Statistical and Historical Research.
Prices of pea beans are averages of one price a week in Tuesday's issues of the New York Journal of Commerce, similar to the series heretofore carried. Prices of red kidneys and limas at New York are averages of daily prices taken from the New York Producers Price Current, a series which is planned to be continued hereafter. Chicago prices are averages of daily prices reported in the Chicago Daily Trade Bulletin. Prices of small whites are averages of daily prices reported in the San Francisco Commercial News. Other California prices are prices reported in California Fruit News in the issues of the Saturday nearest to the middle of the month. In all cases where a range of prices is given in the original source the figure given here is an average of the high and low.

a/ Reports to Hay, Feed and Seed Division.

Foreign countries

Prices of most classes of beans have tended to continue downward in Antwerp from March through June. Cocos blancs at Marseille were low in May, the last month for which figures are available, but Rumanian common beans were holding almost steady in Marseille and at Galatz had even risen to the highest prices since last October. Otenashis at Hokodati, in Hokkaido were selling in March for less than the common beans at Galatz. Otenashis had risen from $.92 per 100 pounds in January, to $1.27 by March, the latest month for which reports are available. New crop Otenashis for October delivery were quoted at Antwerp during June at about $2.30 per 100 pounds c.i.f. Continent, while old crop Otenashis were quoted at $1.98 to $2.09 for prompt delivery, $1.96 to $2.03 floating, and $1.93 to $1.96 for July delivery.

Prices of dry beans in foreign markets per 100 pounds, September 1929-June 1931

Year and month	Antwerp for early delivery f.o.b.					Marseille a/		Galatz	Hokodati Japan
	Pearl	Medium marrow	Small flat	Large flat	Otenashi	Cocos blancs b/	Rumania c/	Common beans d/	Otenashi
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
1929-30:									
Sept.	5.07	5.88	4.46	5.02		8.89	3.42	3.19	5.86
Oct.	6.22	7.24	5.71	6.04		8.78	4.45	e/4.08	4.84
Nov.	6.20	6.95	5.74	6.10		8.44	4.64	e/3.88	4.38
Dec.	5.46	6.42	5.28	5.57		8.20	4.19	3.40	3.42
Jan.	5.10	5.88	4.98	5.70			4.30	3.17	3.89
Feb.	4.69	5.33	4.52	5.22		5.08	3.45	2.64	4.05
Mar.	4.59	4.67	3.67	4.38		3.59	2.82	2.29	3.98
Apr.	4.30	4.69	3.66	4.28		3.09	2.71	2.31	3.61
May	3.92	4.41	3.66	4.19			2.87	2.23	3.36
June	3.72	4.16	3.39	4.09	3.75		2.18	2.04	3.05
July	3.72	3.64	3.35	4.16	3.70			1.95	2.99
Aug.	4.15	4.01	3.99	4.53	4.25		3.53	2.59	2.99
1930-31:									
Sept.	4.14	4.06	3.35	3.98				2.24	2.52
Oct.	3.50	3.75	2.96	3.62	2.54	3.30	1.87	1.64	2.06
Nov.	3.11	3.36	2.69	3.31	2.46	3.58	1.87	1.47	1.80
Dec.	2.87	2.97	2.48	3.13	2.13	3.22	1.80	1.37	1.16
Jan.	2.87	2.84	2.41	3.09	2.11	3.29	1.82	1.31	.92
Feb.	2.89	2.90	2.41	3.08		3.46	1.76	1.37	1.14
Mar.	2.76	2.92	2.43	2.96	2.42	f/3.45	1.65	1.38	1.27
Apr.	2.65	2.92	2.40	2.76	2.40	f/3.46	1.71	1.32	
May	-	2.80	2.38	2.88	2.20	f/3.20	1.64	1.55	
June	-	2.74	2.08	2.78	2.02	-	-	-	

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from reports of the consular service at the markets listed, and Department of Commerce reports on prices in Japan, taken from reports of the Hokodati Chamber of Commerce and Industry. a/ c.i.f. Marseille. Recent prices are on the basis of 6 per cent tolerance in bulk either afloat or for immediate shipment. b/ At warehouse c/ On basis of 6 per cent tolerance in bulk either afloat or for immediate shipment. d/ In carlots at store-houses or railway station or port line. These prices are similar to those previously published under this heading except that these are averages of prices reported for the month, whereas earlier prices were as of about the 15th of the month. e/ Price at Braila. f/ Nominal.

Market Conditions

Markets for beans have been quite consistently dull according to all reports received in recent months. Late in July, however, they had a tendency to be slightly firmer in the United States.

The market for Rumanian beans has probably been stimulated by various Government measures. The export tax on beans was abolished on May 1, 1931. At about the same time a decrease of about 12 per cent became effective in the railway freight rates on leguminous seed intended for internal consumption. The New Rumanian Agricultural Bank was officially registered on May 18, planning to begin operations the first week of June, which will permit the conversion of a large volume of agricultural debts into lower interest bearing loans. The increase in bean transactions in May may have been partly a result of the lowered taxes and other measures. Bean transactions reported at the different markets totaled about 19,000 bushels in May as compared with 10,000 in April and 14,000 in March. Decreases in ocean freights are also reported as stimulating the movement of Rumanian beans. The slow movement in April, however, was due partly to the pressure of farm work. Loading steamers on the Danube have been unable to find sufficient freight and in order to take a full cargo have accepted freight at low figures. Charges at the rate of less than 7 cents per 100 pounds are said to be not exceptional.

The market for otenashis was reported as steady and even firm at Antwerp in June although resellers accepted very low prices.

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Dry bean

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

September 28, 1931

B-3

WORLD DRY BEAN PROSPECTS a/

A 57 per cent decrease has been reported in the exportable surplus for the 1931 crop of large and small white beans in Japan below exports last year, which may lessen the foreign competition with white beans produced in the United States. Rumania, an additional competitor with white beans in our markets, is reported to have had favorable growing conditions and the crop there may be as large as, or larger than that of 1930, but due to reports of decreased acreage the harvest is not now expected to be more than about average. Early indications of below average crops in France and Great Britain, normally importing countries, suggest some increase in demand in Europe for the white bean crop of European exporting countries. A 49 per cent reduction in the estimated exportable surplus of long cranberries for Japan should tend to reduce the competition for the domestic cranberry bean crop in our markets.

The September estimate of United States bean production by States shows an increase of about a third in the total for Michigan and New York combined, where nearly all of the pea beans and marrows and a large part of the red kidneys are grown. A reduction in the total for three western States producing most of the great northern crop is not sufficient to offset the increase in Michigan and New York. Production in the important pinto growing States is well below both last year's large crop and the average of recent years. Reduction in the estimate for California reduced further the total bean crop estimate for 1931 to about the 1925-29 average.

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a/ The statements on foreign bean conditions are based on cabled report of Agricultural Commissioner O. L. Dawson at Shanghai, and mailed reports of Assistant Agricultural Commissioner L. D. Mallory at Marseilles, and Consuls Walter S. Reinock at Antwerp, and John Randolph at Bucharest.

It should be borne in mind that for both foreign countries and the United States weather conditions in the late growing and harvesting period can change the prospect materially and estimates even as late as early September can be revised considerably.

Wholesale prices of many classes of beans rose some during August but part of the gains were lost in the first 23 days of September.

Production

Production of all dry beans in Hokkaido province in Japan, is estimated by the Government Farm Products Inspection Bureau at 2,809,000 bushels, compared with the 1930 revised estimate of 5,461,000 bushels, and an average of 3,271,000 in the 5 years 1926-1930. Production of otenashis and kotenashis (large and small whites), which are the most important competing varieties for United States beans, is placed at only 874,000 bushels compared with 2,365,000 in 1930 and a 5-year average of 958,000 bushels. Nagauzuras (long cranberries), the only other important competing variety, gave a harvest of 411,000 bushels compared with 917,000 in 1930 and a 5-year average of 571,000 bushels. Chunaga production (medium mottled bean somewhat like the pinto) is placed at 715,000 bushels compared with 1,004,000 in 1930.

The Japanese Farm Products Inspection Bureau estimates the exportable surplus of otenashis and kotenashis from the 1931 crop to be about 541,000 bushels, as compared with actual exports of 1,247,000 bushels from the 1930 crop. The surplus of Nagauzuras is estimated at 271,000 bushels compared with exports from the 1930 crop amounting to 529,000 bushels.

No report is available on Japanese stocks as of September 1. Stocks in warehouses of Hokkaido on August 1 have been reported at about 400,000 bushels compared with less than 20,000 bushels a year earlier.

Recent reports from Rumania quote trade opinion of favorable growing conditions and the prospect of a good crop. No official estimates are available of either acreage or production in Rumania but early trade opinion indicated a 20 per cent reduction in acreage. With such a reduction in acreage, yields as high as the highest reported in recent years might give a crop as large as last year's 7,460,000 bushels or even as high as the average of recent years amounting to about 8,300,000 bushels. Early reports for Bulgaria were favorable.

In France, which is normally a bean importing country, bean harvesting was expected to be finished by mid-September. Estimates of the size of the crop varied somewhat, but indications early in September were that it would not equal the above average 4,302,000 bushel crop harvested a year ago. Continuous and heavy rains are said to have damaged the crop. Complaints were also heard about damages to the new crop in Hungary, Austria, and Italy earlier in the season. Early crop reports from Poland were favorable.

Present prospects are for a reduced crop in England and Wales. Acreage for 1931 is reported at 145,500 acres, a reduction of 10 per cent from the 1930 acreage. The condition of the crop in Great Britain, most of which is grown in England and Wales, is reported by the London Times at 88.8 on September 1 compared with 92.8 a year earlier when the crop in England and Wales was 5,197,000 bushels.

Bean production in the United States, as estimated according to conditions the first of September, amounts to 18,725,000 bushels compared with 21,907,000 in 1930 and an average of 18,432,000 bushels for the preceding 5 years.

The reduction of about 15 per cent below last year is made up to a considerable extent of colored bean varieties. Estimates of total bean production in States where most of the white beans are produced indicate a probable increase in white bean production, and possibly in red kidney production also. Total production in Michigan and New York where most of the white pea beans and narrows are grown as well as a large part of the red kidneys, is placed at 7,589,000 bushels, an increase of a third over the 5,718,000 bushels reported for 1930 and just over the annual average of 7,532,000 bushels for the preceding 5 years. This increase is not offset by the decrease in the great northern producing States, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Total production in those States is placed at 3,318,000 bushels compared with 3,831,000 bushels in 1930 and a 5-year average of 2,486,000 bushels. Production in Colorado and New Mexico combined, where most of the pintos are grown, is placed at 1,913,000 bushels which is nearly 60 per cent less than the 4,653,000 bushels reported for 1930 and is also well below the 5-year average of 2,727,000 bushels in the period 1925-1929. Total bean production in California is placed at 5,344,000 bushels, a reduction of 24 per cent below 1930 and only slightly larger than the 1925-29 average. Many varieties are produced in California and it is not definitely known which varieties suffered the biggest decrease. Unofficial statements indicate decreases in black eyes, limas, pinks, small whites, small reds, and pintos, with possible increases in cranberries and red kidneys. In Michigan acreage of both light and dark red kidneys is reported increased.

International Trade and Market Situation

United States imports of beans dwindled seasonally the past 2 months, amounting to 55,000 bushels in July and 21,000 in August. Total imports for the year September-August 1930-31 amounted to 1,311,000 bushels compared with 2,432,000 in 1929-30 and an annual average of 1,547,000 in the preceding 5 years. Exports plus reexports in 1 30-31 amounted to 465,000 bushels leaving a balance of net imports amounting to 846,000 bushels compared with 1,892,000 bushels in 1929-30 and an average of 774,000 bushels the preceding 5 years.

Total imports from Japan in 1930-31 amounted to 802,000 bushels compared with 1,001,000 bushels in 1929-30 and a 5-year average of 481,000 bushels.

Japanese bean exports to the United States from the 1930 crop as reported by the Hokkaido Government Farm Products Inspection Bureau include 525,000 bushels of otenashis and kotenashis out of a total exportation of 1,247,000 bushels of those varieties. Shipments of Nagauzuras to the United States amounted to 324,000 bushels out of a total exportation of that variety of 529,000 bushels. Total shipments of these two varieties to the United

States are not far from the United States figure of 802,000 bushels of beans imported from Japan. Amounts on the ocean might easily account for the difference, or some may have been rerouted to other countries without entering the United States.

Transactions in old crop beans in Rumanian bean markets increased sharply in July. Total transactions amounted to nearly 91,000 bushels compared with only about 62,000 in the whole preceding 6 months. Estimated exports in July amounted to 48,000 bushels compared with only 36,000 the preceding July. Figures for June are not available but from Constanza alone they amounted to 19,000 bushels.

Exportation of surplus beans from Rumania is being stimulated by an agricultural relief measure effective July 22, 1931, exempting exports of leguminous seeds from the payment of the turnover tax which had previously amounted to about 1.8 cents per 100 pounds for beans.

It is reported that the recent increase in German import duty on beans is prohibitive to the entry of Polish beans, which are having to seek new markets. The increase, which went into effect May 10, 1931 raised the duty on edible beans from 4 to 8 Reichsmarks per 100 kilos, equivalent to an increase from about 43.2 cents to 86.4 cents per 100 pounds. The duty on fodder beans was raised at the same time from 2.5 to 5 Reichsmarks per 100 kilos, equivalent to an increase from about 27 to 54 cents per 100 pounds.

Prices a/

Wholesale prices of many classes of beans strengthened some during August but part of the gains were lost during the first 23 days of September. Tenashis in New York, rose in August. They lost some of the gain in September but by September 23 were still above the July average price. Otenashis rose from an average of $4.50 per 100 pounds in July to $4.88 August 31 but fell to $4.62 September 23. Kotenashis rose from an average of $4.41 in July to $4.80 the end of August, falling to $4.50 September 23. Great Northern prices at Chicago rose from $4.50 the first half of August to $4.75 the end of the month and held the gain in September. California limas at New York increased from $6.05 the first of August to $6.42 the end of the month but then fell to $5.95 by September 23, or below the July average. Domestic round cranberries have shown more strength than most classes. They rose from $6.12 the first of August to $6.88 by September 15, but fell slightly to $6.62 the next week. Nagnuzuras at New York, on the other hand, have been falling slightly in both August and September, from $5.30 August 1 to $4.95 September 23.

United States pea beans at New York rose slightly in August but had fallen again by September 23 to $3.88. In Marseilles Danubian common beans which had been falling quite consistently from $1.77 per 100 pounds May 14 to 88 cents on September 4 rose to $1.06 by September 7. Moldavian beans fell from $1.88 to $1.00 in the corresponding period and only rose to $1.01 by September 7.

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a/ Domestic prices are quoted from the New York Producers' Price Current and the Chicago Daily Trade Bulletin. Where a range in daily price is given in the original source, the price used here is an average of the high and low, for choice quality.

Domestic red kidneys were not quoted in New York in September. Italian and Chilean red kidneys in New York were both falling in August and September. Those from Italy fell from $5.88 the first of August to $4.18 on September 23, while those from Chile fell from $6.38 to $5.25.

Pinto prices have held firm at $3.25 since the last week in August when they fell from between $3.58 and $3.75.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

B-4 November 5, 1931

WORLD DRY BEAN PROSPECTS a/b/

An increase in the 1931 crop of white beans in the United States over that of 1930 is faced by a probable increase also in the exportable surplus in foreign surplus-producing countries. The increase in the European surplus-producing countries will probably considerably more than offset the decrease in Japan's exportable surplus. In important European importing countries there are still indications of either a decrease in production or a lowering in quality of the crop below last year.

Early reports indicate a reduction in production of limas and of most colored bean varieties in the United States except red kidneys and small reds for which the figures available are not sufficient to give a definite indication. For California, where many of the colored varieties are grown, the total supplies of all colored varieties except red kidneys are smaller than a year ago in spite of big increases in carry-over.

Prices of pea beans at New York in September and October were the lowest in ten years, although the white bean supply situation is not far different from that of 1925-26 when prices were higher than now. Prices of most colored beans are the lowest in recent years in spite of the decreases in production. In United States markets, prices of most varieties of beans which had been falling the first part of the season to the second week in October, turned

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a/ Beginning with this issue all figures relating to quantities of beans are reported in terms of 100 pound bags instead of bushels as heretofore.

b/ Statements on foreign bean conditions other than those contained in official publications of the various countries are based on reports of Agricultural Commissioner O. L. Dawson at Shanghai, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner L. D. Mallory at Marseille, Consuls John Randolph at Bucharest, Walter S. Reineck at Antwerp and Fletcher Warren at Budapest, and Vice-Consul Maurice Pasquet at Paris. Hokodati prices are as reported to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

upward the latter part of the month. Markets were generally firm the latter part of October, at least up to the 26th of the month.

The United States crop appears to have been moving rather slowly in September, due partly to unwillingness of the farmers to sell. United States foreign trade in August and September this year was on an export basis for the first time since October and November, 1928.

Supplies

Production

A material increase in the estimated production of dry beans in Rumania in 1931 brings total production for the United States and the two most important competing producing countries to 19,829,000 bags of 100 pounds compared with 20,545,000 in 1930 and an average of 17,368,000 bags in the five years 1925-1929.

Rumanian production is principally of white beans including varieties competing with our pea beans, marrows and white kidneys. The increase in Rumanian bean production more than offsets the decrease in Japanese production of white beans. Definite figures are not yet available on United States bean production by varieties, but an indication of white bean production is given by State totals for five States growing mostly white sorts plus preliminary estimates of small whites in California, large and small whites in Japan and total common bean production in Rumania. This total reaches 14,424,000 bags for 1931, an increase of 2,479,000 bags over latest estimates for 1930 and 3,159,000 bags over the 1925-1929 average. The extent to which the increase in foreign white bean production will affect domestic marketings will depend partly on the quality of the foreign crop concerning which no definite information is yet available.

For colored beans reductions in production below last year are indicated for the United States in practically all varieties except the red kidney, and possibly the small red. Cranberry bean production estimates for both the United States and Japan are lower than in any of the preceding three years and lower than the 1925-1929 average.

Of the other European countries, Bulgaria and Poland, both surplus producing countries, are said to have good crops of generally good quality. France may have a crop as large as last year, but part of the crop is said to be of poor quality because of rust spots, and there was some question as to whether the late crop in the North and East would mature. Indications in England and Wales are still for a reduction in crop below last year. Conditions on October 1, although above average, were below those a year earlier, and reported acreage is 10 per cent lower. In Italy a failure is reported and beans suffered from drought in Austria, Hungary, and Yugoslavia where yields are said to be below average. In Hungary the drought caused an early ripening of the beans and the crop is expected to be small in size, but good in quality.

Production of dry beans in the United States and specified foreign countries, average 1925-1929, annual 1928-1931

Country, region and variety	Average 1925-1929	1928	1929	1930	1931 preliminary
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
United States					
Regions growing principally white beans					
Michigan	3,800	3,551	3,415	2,761	4,042
New York	719	696	750	670	1,058
Idaho	965	980	1,270	1,449	1,574
Montana	332	348	396	414	302
Wyoming	194	216	344	436	316
California (small white only)	245	424	416	472	315
Total above	6,255	6,215	6,591	6,202	7,607
Regions producing mostly red and mottled beans					
Colorado	1,066	834	1,407	2,356	644
New Mexico	571	514	1,013	436	602
California					
Pink	568	547	594	577	435
Cranberry	96	106	107	120	90
Small red	118	135	83	90	21
Red kidney	55	69	48	64	84
Total above	2,474	2,205	3,252	3,643	1,876
Blackeye, California	446	428	515	864	405
Limas					
California, regular	1,022	954	1,057	1,141	1,006
" baby	419	401	486	690	575
Other and unspecified					
California	176	131	155	210	156
Other States	267	254	368	394	350
Total United States	11,059	10,588	12,424	13,144	11,975
Rumania, all common beans	4,630	2,652	5,711	4,476	6,349
Japan, Hokkaido province					
Otenashi & Kotenashi (large and small white)	380	315	727	1,267	468
Nagauzura (long cranberry)	284	295	346	491	220
Other varieties	1,015	814	1,081	1,167	817
Total 3 countries reported 1931	17,368	14,664	20,289	20,545	19,829
England and Wales	3,177	2,923	2,465	3,118	a/
France	2,405	1,535	2,249	2,581	b/
Italy	2,875	1,785	3,468	3,571	c/
Bulgaria	888	386	1,121	1,323	d/
Hungary	1,025	605	1,023	1,017	e/
Total all above countries	27,738	21,898	30,615	32,155	

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from records of

Continued -

Production of dry beans in the United States and specified foreign countries, average 1925-1929, annual 1928-1931 - Contd

Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, and official reports of foreign producing countries.
a/ Condition in Great Britain October 1 according to the London Times was 87.34 compared with 90.35 a year earlier and 84.03 the average for the past ten years. Acreage in England and Wales is reported 10 per cent less than in 1930.
b/ Late reports indicate a crop as large as in 1930, but some statements mention considerable damage from rust and possible frost damage.
c/ Crop failure has been reported.
d/ Early reports mentioned favorable conditions.
e/ A small crop of good quality is expected.

United States

Total dry bean production in the United States for 1931 is placed according to the October estimate at 11,975,000 bags of 100 pounds, a reduction of 1,169,000 bags below the 1930 crop, but 916,000 bags above the average for 1925-1929. Production in Michigan and New York where much of the crop is pea beans, totals 5,100,000 bags compared with 3,431,000 bags in 1930 and an average of 4,519,000 in the period 1925-1929. These States are also important producers of red kidneys and some of the increase may well be of that variety. In Michigan there were indications of a higher percentage of pick than last year, at least in some sections. Production in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, important great northern producers, totals 2,192,000 bags a slight reduction from the 2,299,000 bags grown in 1930, but above the 1925-1929 average of 1,491,000 bags.

A big reduction in the pinto crop is indicated by the estimates for Colorado and New Mexico combined, amounting to only 1,246,000 bags for 1931 compared with 2,792,000 bags in 1930 and a five year average of 1,637,000 bags. Preliminary reports for California indicate smaller harvests of pintos than last year and also smaller than average for pinks, cranberries, small reds, black eyes, and regular limas. Baby lima production is also below last year, but above the five year average.

Rumania

Dry bean production in Rumania is placed in the preliminary official estimate at 6,349,000 bags, an increase of 1,873,000 bags reported for 1930, and the largest crop since 1924 when 7,032,000 bags were produced. The increase in crop is the result of both a large acreage and high yields. The area sown exclusively to beans, amounting to 297,000 acres, is the largest acreage reported in the past 10 years, and 77,000 acres larger than in 1930. The acreage sown to beans together with other crops, principally corn, amounts to 1,977,000 acres, 83,000 acres more than in 1930, but smaller than in 1929 and in 1928. This official estimate of acreage is considerably larger than the previous reports coming from trade sources which totaled 1,693,000 acres.

The increase in bean acreage is attributed in part to the 66 per cent curtailment in the 1931 sugar beet acreage due to the Government's sugar rationalization policy, and to the fact that bean prices for the 1930 crop, although low compared with other recent years, were relatively higher than those obtained for other crops.

The production is mentioned further in connection with stocks and surpluses.

Japan

Total production according to the September estimate is placed at 1,505,000 bags compared with 2,925,000 in 1930 and a 5-year average of 1,679,000 bags. The Japanese crop is mentioned further in connection with surpluses.

Carry-over, total supplies and surpluses

Reports available indicate a heavy carry-over of most colored varieties of beans in the United States, but a fairly light carry-over of white beans. Carry-over of export varieties in Japan appears to be heavy. In Rumania, on the other hand, scanty data available do not now point to any increase in carry-over beyond that of a year ago. Rough calculations based on early production reports and average domestic requirements indicate a probable total exportable surplus of white beans from Rumania and Japan together between 1,000,000 and 1,400,000 bags more than a year ago, and long cranberries from Japan between 150,000 and 250,000 bags less than a year ago.

In the United States, warehouse stocks in California on September 1 amounted to 689,300 bags compared with 90,200 bags a year earlier. Due to differences in time of harvest from year to year these figures cannot be taken as an exact indication of differences in carry-over in the two years, but they do indicate a carry-over for this year much heavier than a year ago and heavier than average. No definite information is available on carry-over in other parts of the United States, but data available continue to indicate heavy stocks of old crop pintos, and some increase over last year in great northerns, but fairly light stocks of pea beans and practically none of red kidneys. This distribution of stocks is especially favorable since the heavy stocks generally are of the varieties in which production is light and the light stocks are of the varieties in which production is increased.

Stocks of dry beans in California warehouses on September 1 and October 1, 1931

Date and variety	Average 1926-1930	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags
Sept. 1							
Large white	4,700	16,500	4,900	800	100	1,200	9,500
Small white	15,800	41,600	2,500	8,700	1,000	25,000	86,700
Pink	39,700	74,000	63,100	44,300	11,600	5,300	126,300
Pinto	800	400	a/	600	200	2,800	40,700
Cranberry ..	2,100	2,100	5,200	2,700	400	300	500
Small red ..	26,700	45,300	13,000	37,000	28,600	9,600	19,300
Red kidney	5,400	4,800	13,200	7,500	1,100	100	14,600
Bayo	2,500	300	5,700	5,900	500	100	3,900
Lima, regular ..	49,300	45,300	166,900	15,100	2,800	16,300	74,600
Lima, baby	17,100	9,300	67,400	5,000	1,200	2,600	102,700
Blackeye ..	51,800	44,600	117,800	44,000	27,900	24,600	206,800
Miscellaneous ..	4,300	7,700	7,800	2,900	1,200	2,300	3,700
Total & average	220,100	291,900	467,500	174,500	76,600	90,200	689,300
Oct. 1							
Large white	9,000	17,400	7,100	8,800	4,900	6,800	8,100
Small white	159,900	131,400	143,600	153,300	170,100	201,100	271,300
Pink	84,800	113,400	80,700	114,200	36,000	79,700	159,300
Pinto	1,300	300	a/	1,300	800	4,200	35,500
Cranberry ..	4,000	1,900	5,400	8,900	2,900	800	2,300
Small red ..	20,200	25,300	10,500	35,700	22,200	7,400	13,300
Red kidney	5,800	8,000	12,200	6,200	1,200	1,300	15,600
Bayo	4,500	6,000	9,000	6,600	500	600	3,600
Lima, regular ..	391,100	479,800	559,200	255,200	384,900	276,300	593,700
Lima, baby	162,800	250,100	165,600	167,400	124,500	106,700	330,000
Blackeye ..	179,400	190,700	208,000	128,300	104,200	265,800	332,900
Miscellaneous ..	12,000	27,200	12,400	14,200	1,200	5,000	9,500
Total & average	1,034,900	1,251,500	1,213,700	900,100	853,400	955,700	1,775,100

Figures as reported by California Bean Dealers' Association.
a/ Less than 50 bags.

Rumania

While no definite information is available on carry-over of beans in Rumania, an inspection of the production, export and seed requirement figures in recent years suggests that the carry-over this year was at least no larger than last year and may have been smaller, provided an average amount was consumed within the country last year. There are some indications that domestic bean consumption in Rumania is comparatively elastic, high prices tending to

cause restricted domestic consumption and heavy exports, while low prices tend to stimulate home consumption. The low prices last year would normally suggest a heavy domestic consumption and light carry-over. Bean prices, however, are said to have been better, at least early in the season, than prices for competing crops and thus there is no basis for figuring on an unduly heavy domestic consumption. Assuming average consumption the past two years, the total supply this year may be not more than 1,800,000 bags greater than a year ago, whereas the crop is about 1,900,000 bags greater.

Rumania: Distribution of common dry bean crop, 1922-23 to 1931-32

Year beginning Sept. 1	Production	Seed requirement a/	Exports	Statistical balance for domestic consumption and carry-over
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Average 1924-25 to 1928-29 ...	4,894	629	1,388	b/ 2,877
1922-23	3,528	461	-	-
1923-24	5,143	559	c/ 2,417	2,167
1924-25	d/ 7,032	606	c/d/1,177	b/ 5,249
1925-26	5,462	652	2,286	2,524
1926-27	5,542	606	1,714	3,222
1927-28	3,784	638	1,219	1,927
1928-29	2,652	643	544	b/ 1,465
1929-30	5,711	591	1,185	3,935
1930-31	4,476	640	e/ (1,050)	(2,786)
1931-32 Prel.	6,349			

Division of Statistical and Historical Research.

a/ Approximation on the basis of 36 pounds to the acre for beans grown alone and 27 pounds to the acre for beans grown with other crops, as reported by Consul Childs quoting the Ministry of Agriculture.

b/ As far as can be ascertained the carry-over was negligible at the beginning of 1924 and at the end of 1928, thus the balance available for domestic consumption in these five years can be assumed to have been entirely consumed in the country within that period, and actual consumption in the period to have averaged about 2,877,000 bags annually.

c/ Exports for year beginning July 1.

d/ A large crop of poor quality not in demand by foreign buyers.

e/ Preliminary figure, including unofficial indications in recent months.

Japan

Reports on production and exports of Japanese beans in recent years indicate a definite reduction in exportable surplus of the principal export varieties, tenashis or large and small whites, and nagauzuras or long cranberries The reduction thus indicated is not so great as was officially reported a month ago, and leads to the conclusion either that domestic consumption of those varieties was unusually heavy last year or that the official report of surplus was the surplus from the new crop only without taking account of carry-over.

Japan: Distribution of tenashi and nagauzura bean crops, 1924-1931

Year beginning Sept. 1	Tenashi			Nagauzura		
	Production	Exports	Balance for domestic consumption and carry-over	Production	Exports	Balance for domestic consumption and carry-over
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Average 1924-25 to 1930-31 ..	478	279	199	293	200	93
1924-25 ...	179	103	76	140	104	36
1925-26 ...	435	152	283	243	187	56
1926-27 ...	165	80	85	250	155	95
1927-28 ...	258	178	80	286	214	72
1928-29 ...	315	219	96	295	185	110
1929-30 ...	727	552	175	346	270	76
1930-31 ...	1,267	668	599	491	283	208
1931-32 Prel.	a/ 468	b/ (290)	(178)	a/ 220	b/ (145)	(75)

Division of Statistical and Historical Research.
1924-25 compiled from California Bean Market Information Bulletin No. 49, August 30, 1930. 1926-31 compiled from report of Hokkaido Nosanbutsu Kensasho (Gov't. Farm Products Inspection Bureau) Hokkaido Japan, September 12, 1931.
a/ Estimate based on September 1 condition.
b/ Officially reported exportable surplus.

Stocks in French customs and bonded warehouses, which had been increasing during July and the first part of August dwindled slightly during September. The total quantity reported in the two positions rose from 7,480 bags the first of July to a peak of 9,900 bags August 12 from which it fell to 9,040 bags by September 23.

Movement of the Crop

Early figures on car-lot shipments and changes in California warehouse stocks indicate a rather sluggish movement of the new crop from producing regions. Part of the decrease may be attributable to reluctance of farmers to sell at the low prices prevailing in September. In Rumania there was a brisk movement in August, probably representing partly new and partly old crop beans.

United States

Primary billings of car-lot shipments from important bean producing areas totaled only 1,630 cars in September, 1931 compared with 3,091 cars a year earlier, and 2,297 cars in 1929. These figures do not completely reflect the movement into consuming channels, partly because some of the shipments are to central cleaning plants and terminal storage warehouses rather than to consuming areas, partly because they take no account of the movement in less than carload lots and movement by truck, which last year are reported to have reached significant proportions, and partly because the original shipments which reach consuming areas do not necessarily mean movement into consuming channels.

In California, warehouse stocks piled up a little more in September this year than last year in spite of a decrease in production. They also increased somewhat more than in other recent years. Important factors in the increasing stocks are the limas and baby limas. Total stocks increased 1,085,800 bags during September this year compared with 865,500 bags a year ago. Stocks of regular limas increased 519,100 bags this year compared with 260,000 a year ago and baby limas increased 227,300 bags this year as against 104,100 a year ago. (Detailed figures on California warehouse stocks are found on page 6.)

Car-lot shipments of dry beans, by States, 1928-29 a/ to 1931-32

State	Year beginning Sept. 1			Sept.			
	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31	1928	1929	1930	1931 Prel.
	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars
Michigan	6,383	5,616	5,046	271	598	705	431
New York	889	1,056	961	31	24	38	67
Idaho	1,973	2,516	2,671	269	348	706	392
Montana	566	733	647	150	153	288	93
Wyoming	347	577	785	112	196	268	83
Colorado	1,732	2,347	4,312	200	361	534	221
New Mexico	555	1,750	624	43	107	148	63
California	2,961	3,588	2,850	394	500	374	227
Others	122	239	357	7	10	30	53
Total cars	15,528	18,422	18,253	1,477	2,297	3,091	1,630
	1000 bags	1000 bags	1000 bags	1000 bags	1000 bags	1000 bags	1000 bags
Range of equivalent in bags a/	6211-9317	7369-11053	7301-10952	591-886	919-1378	1236-1855	652-978

Compiled from reports of Hay, Feed and Seed Division.

a/ Car lots contain varying quantities of beans ranging from about 400 to 600 bags of 100 pounds. There is a tendency for a larger carload to be used in the West than in the East, but there is considerable variation in both West and East.

Rumania

Bean transactions at the important bean marketing and export centers in Rumania were much heavier in August 1931 than in July 1931, or in August 1930. Total transactions in August reached 267,000 bags compared with 54,000 in July. Constantza reported over 141,000 bags sold in August 1931, mostly for immediate delivery compared with 22,000 bags in August 1930, Braila 84,000 bags this year compared with 4,000 in 1930 and Galatz 26,000 bags this year compared with 1,000 a year ago. The greater activity at Constantza is partly explained by the fact that it is the market for beans grown in southern and southeastern Rumania where beans are ready for market from one to two weeks earlier than in the more northerly growing regions. Bean receipts during August reached 57,000 bags at Constantza and 47,000 bags at Braila.

Dry Beans: Imports into the United States by country of origin and exports, 1924-1931

(In bags of 100 pounds)

Country and movement	Year beginning Sept. 1.							Sept.		
	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1929	1930	1931
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Imports										
EUROPE										
France	85	124	166	201	16	45	36	1	a/	1
Belgium	18	29	67	202	22	22	10	a/	3	0
Italy	106	152	152	62	22	74	37	14	13	1
Netherlands	22	28	23	35	14	23	11	1	a/	a/
Germany	25	55	41	127	22	94	21	1	2	0
Hungary	8	4	13	26	1	102	17	7	0	0
Austria	2	11	6	11	1	13	a/	4	0	0
Czechoslovakia	9	1	4	9	1	4	1	0	0	0
Rumania	4	5	0	1	4	15	3	1	0	0
Poland	1	1	6	7	0	10	4	0	0	0
Total above Continental European countries	280	410	478	681	103	402	140	29	18	2
United Kingdom	52	4	2	29	41	66	1	a/	0	0
ASIA										
Japan	339	210	221	383	290	601	481	2	4	4
Hongkong	20	24	23	20	23	23	22	1	1	1
China	7	6	8	7	11	8	5	1	a/	a/
Kwantung	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
NORTH AMERICA										
Canada	21	36	8	88	25	128	9	3	a/	a/
Mexico	11	5	8	65	41	b/ 16	13	3	1	1
Dominican Republic	0	0	2	4	10	20	12	2	a/	a/
Cuba	1	1	1	1	1	b/ 10	13	a/	a/	a/
SOUTH AMERICA										
Chile	55	2	26	182	188	140	76	8	6	3
Argentina	15	6	2	11	6	7	11	2	3	1
Peru	1	0	0	1	9	2	a/	0	0	0
AFRICA										
Madagascar	54	2	0	0	26	22	0	0	0	0
Other countries	7	10	16	9	8	12	4	4	1	1
Total imports	864	716	796	1,483	782	1,459	787	55	34	13
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	294	347	334	242	196	170	174	11	7	7
RE-EXPORTS	176	187	194	158	191	154	105	17	10	17
NET IMPORTS	394	182	268	1,083	395	1,135	508	27	17	c/ 11
Blackeye imports										
Cuba	d/	d/	d/	d/	d/	e/ 4	15	d/	11	0
Mexico	d/	d/	d/	d/	d/	e/ 2	1	d/	1	0

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from records of Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

a/ Less than 500 bags. b/ Exclude blackeye since June 18, 1930.
c/ Net exports. d/ Included in imports of other dry beans.
e/ June 18 to August 31, 1930, only. Earlier figures included with other beans.

International Trade

United States

The United States bean trade was on an export basis in September 1931. Imports of only 13,000 bags were exceeded by re-exports of 17,000. In addition 7,000 bags of domestic beans were exported making a net export of 11,000 bags as compared with net imports of 17,000 bags in September, 1930, and 27,000 bags in September, 1929. Domestic exports in September were no larger than those a year earlier and smaller than the 11,000 bags exported in September 1929.

Marseille

Sea-borne receipts of beans at Marseille rose to 195,760 bags in September compared with only 33,640 bags in August. They all came from Rumania and Bulgaria, the major portion being from the former country. Corresponding figures are not available for earlier months. Imports are almost exclusively carried on in bulk from port of shipment, very few sacked beans being purchased. Upon arrival at Marseille the bulk beans for sorting are sacked and trucked to the dealer's warehouse. This operation is carried out under customs bond. After hand-picking they are again sacked for shipment.

Recent Prices and Market Conditions

There has been a definite recovery in wholesale prices of most bean varieties on domestic markets during the latter part of October from the extremely low levels reached about the middle of the month. Increases in domestic sorts mostly ranged from 25 to 35 cents. In most cases the prices prevailing late in October were still below the September average. Prices of most colored varieties as well as the white sorts are still well below the average for last year in spite of decreases in colored bean production in the United States. Quotations of foreign beans on domestic markets have been scattering. Pea beans at New York fell from an average of $4.21 per 100 pounds in September to $3.35 October 10, but rose again to $3.75 by October 26. Great northerns in the same period fell from $3.72 to $3.12 and rose to $3.42. European pea beans and kotenashis from Japan have not been quoted recently, duty paid. Otenashis on October 26 were $4.68 per 100 pounds, 8 cents above the September average, small whites at San Francisco fell from $3.56 in September to $2.75 October 10, and recovered to $3.00.

Regular limas at New York fell from an average of $6.08 in September to $5.58 October 10, and closed at $5.80 October 26. At San Francisco limas fell from $5.55 in mid-September to $4.40 October 10, later rising to $4.65 October 24, and baby limas fell from $3.78 to $2.92, and then rose to $3.22.

Among the colored varieties, the New York price of red kidneys fell from an average of $4.88 in September to $4.25 October 17, rising later to $4.50. Red kidneys from Italy continued to fall from $4.68 in September to $3.38 October 26. Domestic round cranberries rose from $6.38 October 10 to

$6.62 October 26, which was almost up to the September level of $6.67 and above the prices quoted on the New York market last season. Nagauzuras, quoted at $5.08 October 26, were slightly above the September average of $5.04 but were lower than prices quoted last year. Fruitillas from Chile at $4.62 were below the September average and below the quotations for last year except in April when the new Chilean crop was beginning to come on the market.

The cranberry price at San Francisco is one of the few which did not show a recovery in October, falling from $5.38 in mid-September to $4.25 by October 24, in spite of reduced production of cranberry beans in California and in Japan. The price of small reds at San Francisco at $2.58 on October 24 was equal to that of mid-September and above the mid-month prices for any previous month since March. Pink bean prices rose from $2.65 October 10 to $3.00 October 24 which was above the mid-September price and equal to the mid-August price but below prices for other months of last season.

Black eyes rose from $2.85 October 10 to $3.00 October 24, but were still below mid-September and below prices most of last year.

Pintos rose from $1.92 per 100 pounds at Denver September 24 to $2.22 October 21, which was still below prices most of last year.

Demand in New York recently is reported to have been fairly good for all domestic beans, with the local situation firm and prices tending higher. A stronger tone has also been noted in other domestic markets.

Marseille is the only foreign market for which prices are available as late as October. Prices of French and Danubian beans were still falling through October 8. At Hokodati, Japan, the price of otenashis rose noticeably as early as July.

At Marseille the bean market was rather unsettled up to October 10, appearing to await a settlement of a basis of payment of contracts (contracts in pounds sterling). Weakness in prices was attributed in part to the lack of export demand, and also in part to the fact that some dealers anticipating payment of their obligations with a depreciated currency were selling at slightly below the price at which forward sales were made. Some of these purchases were then floating.

The more substantial firms in Rumania were said to be willing to accept payment in pounds sterling as stipulated in their contracts, while the smaller firms were demanding payment on a basis of 124 francs to the pound. Dealers in Marseille had made no definite and final statement on the method of payment and to that time had been attempting to settle accounts in depreciated pounds. It appeared that concessions would finally be made on both sides.

Business early in October was largely for French consumption, with some lots being forwarded to North Africa. Export trade was dull, with no beans being shipped to the United States, the low prices in America and the high import duty effectively stopping any trade. Offers of 1930 crop handpicked Danubian beans for shipment from New York at approximately one half the amount of the import duty have been seen at Marseille.

Bean Prices and Bean Supplies

The September 15 United States average farm price of all beans, at $2.58 per 100 pounds, is the lowest reported, at least since 1910, although 1931 production as reported in October is lower than in 1929 or 1930 and only slightly higher than in 1925.

Prices of most varieties of colored beans are lower than in recent years in spite of the decrease reported in production. The Colorado farm price, at $1.50, paid mostly for pintos, in August and September, was the lowest recorded at least since 1910, and compares with a twelve month average of $2.26 for 1930-31 and $4.53 for 1929-30. In both those years the total crop of Colorado and New Mexico was about twice as large as this year. Heavy carry-over of pintos doubtless contributes some to the present low price.

Recent San Francisco prices of pinks are lower than any mid-month prices on records going back through the 1926-27 season, while production in California is the lowest in the same period. Blackeye prices are still at the level of the late months of last season in spite of a reduction of over half in production. Cranberry prices are the lowest at least since 1925-26 with the exception of November 1930, although production is the lowest since the 1925 crop.

Red kidney prices both at San Francisco and New York are the lowest in recent years, but for this variety no definite indication is available of the size of the crop. Small reds at San Francisco have been higher in September and October than the late months of the 1930-31 season but are lower than earlier months since 1925-26. For this variety also no definite information is available on production.

Pea bean prices have been lower for this season than in any preceding month in the past ten years at least. Prices at New York averaged $4.21 per 100 pounds in September and about $3.60 in October this year compared with an average of $5.39 in the 12 months of the 1925-26 season, the year of lowest prices in recent years, and $5.06 in July 1926. In 1925-26 the situation was somewhat similar to this. Production of all beans in the United States, according to the October estimate, this year is about the same as in 1925 amounting to 11,975,000 bags compared to 11,957,000 in that year. Production in the five States growing principally white beans, plus production of California small whites is 7,607,000 bags compared with about 7,611,000 bags in 1925. The carry-over of all beans may be larger than in 1925 but it seems probable that the carry-over of pea beans is smaller. Total supplies in Rumania plus supplies of white beans in Japan are somewhat larger than in 1925. Reported production is 1,000,000 bags greater but carry-over is probably no larger than in that year. Japan may have a carry-over to increase this year's supply but Rumania had a large carry-over in the beginning of 1925. European importing countries had a good crop in 1925 and there is some reason to anticipate a decrease rather than an increase above that figure this year.

Prices of specified varieties of beans per 100 pounds, in United States markets, September 1930 - October 1931

WHITE BEANS AND LIMAS

Year and month	New York price from receivers to wholesale distributors							Chicago to local trade l.c.l.	San Francisco f.o.b. rail Calif.	
	Pea		Great Northern	Oten-ashi Japan	Koten-ashi Japan	Med. Marrow domestic	Lima, regular Calif.	Great Northern	Small white	Baby lima
	Domestic	Europe								
	Dolls.	Dolls	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.
1930-31										
Sept.	8.31	7.93	-	8.01	7.75	8.61	12.05	6.75	7.03	8.88
Oct.	6.58	6.49	-	-	-	7.60	9.90	6.25	6.09	5.80
Nov.	5.73	5.50	5.41	-	-	6.87	8.74	5.46	5.20	5.00
Dec.	5.54	5.21	5.12	5.38	-	6.22	7.37	5.20	4.86	4.82
Jan.	5.52	5.19	5.12	5.25	4.99	5.71	7.58	5.06	4.56	4.68
Feb.	5.33	5.14	4.90	5.21	4.96	5.29	7.94	4.82	4.51	5.00
Mar.	5.11	4.94	4.34	4.96	4.72	4.99	7.56	4.50	4.28	4.38
Apr.	4.97	4.73	4.18	4.83	4.61	4.60	7.50	4.46	4.24	4.60
May	5.01	-	4.21	4.97	4.62	4.47	7.40	4.37	4.27	4.45
June	4.74	-	4.12	4.70	4.56	4.39	6.55	4.60	4.02	3.95
July	4.56	4.36	4.09	4.50	4.41	4.33	5.98	4.44	3.67	3.70
Aug.	4.71	4.51	4.13	4.72	4.65	4.12	6.29	4.54	3.73	4.22
1931-32										
Sept.	4.21	4.11	3.72	4.60	4.58	a/3.88	6.08	b/ 4.81	3.56	3.78
Oct. 3	3.55	3.12	3.12	4.38	4.12	a/3.50	5.80	b/c/ 4.88	3.08	3.08
" 10	3.35	-	3.08	-	-	a/3.45	5.58	b/c/ 4.88	2.75	2.92
" 17	3.50	-	3.42	-	-	a/3.50	5.92	b/c/ 3.00	2.88	3.22
" 24	3.75	-	3.42	4.68	-	a/3.80	5.80		d/3.00	3.22
" 26	3.75	-	3.42	4.68	-	a/3.80	5.80			

COLORED BEANS

Year and month	New York prices from receivers to wholesale distributors					Chicago to local trade l.c.l.	Colorado price to producers	San Francisco, f.o.b. rail Calif.			
	Red kidney		Cranberry								
	Domestic	Italy	Round domestic	Nagauzura Japan	Fruitilla Chile	Pinto	Pinto	Small red	Cranberry	Pink	Black eye
	Dolls.	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls
1930-31											
Sept.	12.68	-	-	6.72	6.54	6.25	4.40	4.68	6.78	6.02	5.32
Oct.	9.81	-	-	6.23	6.20	6.25	3.20	4.18	5.68	4.45	4.02
Nov.	8.04	-	6.56	5.90	5.80	4.31	2.45	3.82	4.88	3.92	3.50
Dec.	9.49	-	6.26	6.00	5.77	-	2.15	3.32	5.30	4.08	3.20
Jan.	9.75	9.38	6.34	6.32	5.97	-	2.15	3.05	5.45	3.95	3.40
Feb.	9.67	9.33	6.38	6.21	5.72	-	2.15	2.92	5.82	3.90	3.10
Mar.	9.44	8.75	6.10	6.06	4.93	-	2.10	2.65	5.65	3.88	2.85
Apr.	8.94	8.39	5.88	5.76	4.30	3.62	1.95	2.45	5.52	3.68	3.15

Continued -

Prices of specified varieties of beans per 100 pounds, in United States markets, September 1930 - October 1931 - continued

COLORED BEANS

Year and month	New York prices from receivers to wholesale distributors: Red kidney: Domestic	Italy	Cranberry: Round domestic	Nagauzura Japan	Fruitilla Chile	Chicago to local trade l.c.l.: Pinto	Colorado price to producers: Pinto	San Francisco, f.o.b. rail Calif.: Small red	Cranberry	Pink	Black eye
	Dolls.	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls
1930-31											
May....	8.17	7.40	-	5.78	5.36	3.59	1.80	2.42	5.42	3.42	3.15
June...	7.27	6.52	-	5.41	5.30	3.58	1.65	2.32	5.68	3.38	2.95
July...	6.72	5.87	6.08	5.33	4.79	3.58	1.60	2.32	5.68	3.12	2.80
Aug....	6.47	5.65	6.35	5.25	4.85	3.54	1.50	2.42	5.58	3.00	3.22
1931-32											
Sept...	e/4.88	4.68	6.67	5.04	4.74	3.28	1.50	2.58	5.38	2.82	3.22
Oct. 3	4.55	3.88	6.62	4.82	4.62	c/ 3.50		2.45	4.82	2.72	2.85
" 10	4.50	-	6.38	-	-	c/ 3.50	f/ 1.62	2.45	4.55	2.65	2.85
" 17	4.25	3.62	6.62	-	-	c/ 3.00	f/ 1.98	2.45	4.40	2.75	3.10
" 24	4.50	3.38	6.62	5.08	4.62	-	f/ 2.22	2.58	4.25	3.00	3.00
" 26	4.50	3.38	6.62	5.08	4.62						

Division of Statistical and Historical Research.

New York prices are averages of daily prices taken from the New York Producers Price Current, Chicago prices are averages of daily prices from the Chicago Daily Trade Bulletin. Of the San Francisco prices the small whites are averages of daily prices taken from the San Francisco Commercial News. Other San Francisco prices are one price a month for the Saturday nearest the 15th of the month taken from the California Fruit News.

a/ Beginning September 24, 1931 this variety is listed as "Marrow", not "Medium Marrow".

b/ Michigan beans.

c/ Quotations for days reported nearest those listed.

d/ California Fruit News.

e/ No quotation until September 29.

f/ Hay, feed and seed reports of prices at Denver, October 7, 14, and 21.

Prices of dry beans in foreign markets per 100 pounds, September 1930 - October 1931

Year and month	Antwerp, for early delivery, f.o.b.					Marseille			Galatz	Hokodati
						Coco blanc		Danubian common c.i.f. b/		
	Pearl	Medium marrow	Small flat	Large flat	Otenashi	French a/	Danubian c.i.f. b/		Common c/	Otenashi
	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.
1930-31										
Sept.	4.14	4.06	3.35	3.98	-	-		-	2.24	2.52
Oct.	3.50	3.75	2.96	3.62	2.54	3.30		1.87	1.64	2.06
Nov.	3.11	3.36	2.69	3.31	2.46	3.58		1.87	1.47	1.80
Dec.	2.87	2.97	2.48	3.13	2.13	3.22		1.80	1.37	1.16
Jan.	2.87	2.84	2.41	3.09	2.11	3.29		1.82	1.31	.92
Feb.	2.89	2.90	2.41	3.06	-	3.46		1.76	1.37	1.14
Mar.	2.76	2.92	2.43	2.96	2.42	d/3.45		1.65	1.38	1.27
Apr.	2.65	2.92	2.40	2.76	2.40	d/3.46		1.71	1.32	1.09
May	-	2.80	2.38	2.38	2.20	d/3.20		1.64	1.35	1.09
June	-	2.74	2.08	2.73	2.02	-		-	1.26	1.00
July	-	2.72	2.09	2.88	2.07	-		1.49	1.25	1.15
Aug.	e/2.04	e/2.65	e/1.73	e/2.35	1.86		1.38	1.05	.94	
1931-32										
Sept.						2.62	1.33	1.02		
Oct. 8 f/						g/2.68	h/1.31	.97		

Division of Statistical and Historical Research.
Compiled from reports of the Consular Service at the markets listed and Department of Commerce reports on prices in Japan, taken from reports of the Hokodati, Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Marseille prices for August and September 1931 are furnished by the association of Sworn Brokers.

a/ Recent prices are f.o.b. shipping point. Prior to June 1931 they were at warehouse at Marseille.
b/ On the basis of 6 per cent tolerance foreign matter and colored beans, in bulk, either afloat or for immediate shipment.
c/ In carlots at storehouses or railway stations or port line.
d/ Nominal.
e/ New crop beans for October or November delivery.
f/ Prices from trade sources.
g/ Cocos Dan, described as marrows.
h/ Unsorted, 4 to 5 per cent tolerance.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

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Rec'd

B-5 December 8, 1931

WORLD DRY BEAN PROSPECTS a/ b/

Summary

United States white bean production, according to estimates by varieties, is larger than that of 1930, the increase being due principally to a 46-per-cent increase in pea beans. Reductions are reported in all colored beans except red kidneys. Latest reports of foreign production indicate a probable slight reduction in harvest below 1930, mostly in surplus producing countries, offset by increases in carry-over. Production in European importing countries promises to be smaller.

Domestic supplies are large enough to c use only slight current interest in foreign beans but in October our reexports of foreign beans were less than our imports whereas in September they had exceeded imports. Movement of the new crop continued to be comparatively slow in October. Prices of most varieties of beans rose during the month ended November 20, but prices of pea beans fell and also round cranberries at New York.

Comparison of the current supply situation with that of last year is made difficult by rather wide differences in the distribution of the crop among the different varieties and differences in the distribution of the foreign supply. The present bean supply in general shows more similarity with

a/ Statements on foreign beans other than those derived from official publications of the various countries are based on reports of Agricultural Commissioner O. L. Dawson at Shanghai, Agricultural Attache' L. G. Michael at Belgrade, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner L. D. Mallory at Marseille, Consuls John Randolph at Bucharest, Walter S. Reineck at Antwerp, Bartley F. Yost at Nogales, Wm. A. Smale, Ensenada, Nelson R. Park, Torreon, and vice consuls Maurice Pasquet at Paris and Camden L. McLain at Santiago.
b/ Figures relating to quantities of beans are reported in terms of 100 pound bags.

that of 1925 than with any other succeeding year, and for that reason the marketing and prices of that year are of special interest. Total domestic white bean production is slightly larger than in 1925 but pea bean production is slightly smaller. There is no definite measure of carry-over into the two seasons but the white bean crop preceding the 1931 season was slightly larger than that preceding 1925 and it seems probable that white bean carry-over is slightly larger. United States colored bean production according to present estimates is smaller than in 1925 but there is little doubt that stocks of old crop are larger, making total domestic supply of colored beans larger than in that year. Small reds, cranberries, and yellow eyes are the only classes of colored beans for which 1931 crops are larger than 1925.

The foreign bean surplus on the whole appears to be smaller than in 1925. The bean crop in the Danube Basin, which competes principally with our white varieties, is probably slightly smaller than in 1925 according to latest available information and carry-over from the preceding crop is probably considerably smaller than in 1925. France and Italy, important bean importers now have indications of a much smaller total crop than the above average harvests of 1925. Japan, an important competitor in large and small whites and cranberries, has a crop of large and small whites only slightly larger than in 1925 and a smaller crop of long cranberries. Carry-over of both varieties is larger than in 1925 but the crop of beans of varieties not usually exported is less than half as large as in 1925 and thus some of the export varieties will probably be needed to help supply this deficiency and the exportable surplus may not be far from that of 1925. Chile, the remaining important foreign source of supply competing with our beans in domestic markets gives early promise of a probable crop somewhat larger than the small

1925-26 harvest, made up of white beans, red kidneys, cranberries and other colored varieties.

United States bean prices are lower than in 1925. The import duty is now $3.00 per 100 pounds compared with $1.75 in 1925.

For the first two months of the present season our exports plus reexports have more than equaled our imports, whereas in 1925-26 we were importing more than we exported. The total net trade for 1925-26 was a net import of 182,000 bags, the smallest net import of recent years. We do not yet have assurance that the current early export movement is more than a seasonal movement, since during and just following the harvest season imports usually are insignificant and we are occasionally on an export basis. We were still importing beans in April, May, and June when prices were lower than in 1925-26, so it cannot be concluded that we are free from the competition of foreign beans.

Supplies

White bean production in the United States of 6,718,000 bags according to the preliminary reports by varieties is 1,178,000 bags greater than the crop of 1930 and is greater than in any of the preceding five years. The increase over last year is brought about principally by the increase in the pea bean crop, which is 1,221,000 bags greater than in 1930. It is little greater than the average pea bean crop in the five years 1925 to 1929 and is 769,000 bags smaller than in 1925. The average pick in Michigan is reported to be 5 per cent which is double that of last year. Great northern production of 1,948,000 bags is slightly smaller than last year but well above the average and above the 918,000 bags grown in 1925. Colored bean production of 3,355,000 bags in 1931 is 1,852,000 bags below the 1930 crop, with reductions in practically all classes except red kidney and yellow eye, but is not far below the 1925 crop of 3,828,000 bags.

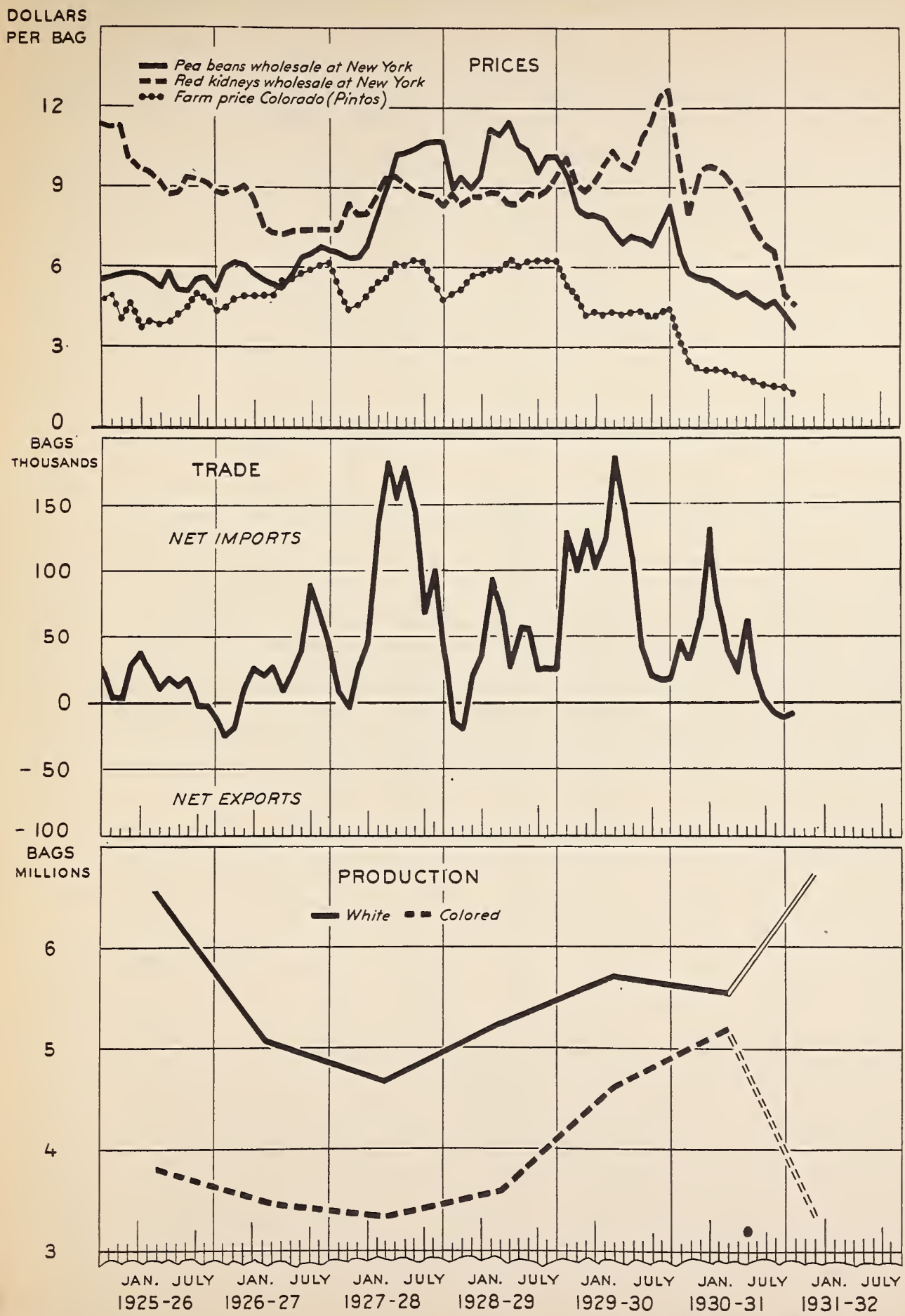
Present information on foreign bean production, including some rough approximations, indicates a total crop in eight countries of 14,947,000 bags which is roughly similar to the 15,241,000 bags reported for those countries last year and below the 1925 harvest of 16,657,000 bags, although about 2,000,000 bags larger than the 1925-1929 average crop. Trade reports of acreage, early harvesting and other reports indicate an increase over the 1930 crop in Bulgaria which is more than offset by probable decreases in Hungary

and Yugoslavia. Total production in the four Danubian Basin countries is believed to be about 1,600,000 bags larger than a year ago but slightly smaller than in 1925, and carry-over is also believed to be smaller than in 1925. England and Wales, France, and Italy, important bean importing countries, are all reported to have crops either probably considerably smaller than 1930 and 1925, or of poorer quality. These three countries import roughly 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 bags annually. The crop in France was practically completely harvested by the first of November and the proportion of beans bearing blemishes is said to be even larger than was anticipated. For one variety, chevrier, it was estimated that 35 per cent is defective. The proportion of beans bearing rust spots varies from 25 to 40 per cent according to the district of origin.

Recent revisions of the Japanese crop increased slightly the 1931 estimate for large and small whites in Hokkaido and decreased the estimate for long cranberries. The total crop remains almost unchanged. The quality is considered good. Stocks of old crop large and small whites and long cranberries are very heavy, daifukus and chunagas heavier than average, but kintokis are below the preceding two years. In Chile the acreage for the 1931-32 harvest is officially reported to be 6.1 per cent less than that a year ago. Early growing conditions have been good, however, and better than last year when 1,489,000 bags were produced. According to information furnished the consulate by the General Statistical Office, stocks of red kidneys in the open market available for export about the first of November were only 15,000 to 16,000 bags and pea bean stocks were only about 22,000 to 23,000 bags. Stocks of other classes of beans usually exported to the United States such as marrows, long marrows, small pea beans, cranberries, and large cranberries, had become exhausted. Stocks of several important varieties, consumed mostly in Chile, were also exhausted.

Reports are not yet available for the most important bean producing districts of Mexico, but for scattering regions the crop is reported to be disappointing. Some regions are reporting crops smaller than last year's small harvest.

DRY BEANS: UNITED STATES PRODUCTION, FOREIGN TRADE, AND PRICES



U.S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG 23864 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Production of dry edible beans in bags of 100 pounds, United States and specified foreign countries, average 1925-1929, annual 1925-1931

Country and variety	Av. 1925-1929	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931 prelim.
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
UNITED STATES								
White:								
Eastern pea	3,530	4,649	3,692	2,735	3,268	3,307	2,659	3,880
Western small white	345	259	209	305	461	493	557	460
Great northern . . .	1,176	918	815	1,349	1,229	1,570	2,066	1,948
Marrow	124	219	82	79	110	132	220	321
Large white	209	454	184	140	126	139		
White kidney	56	58	89	54	35	44	38	109
Total white beans	5,440	6,557	5,071	4,662	5,227	5,685	5,540	6,718
Lima:								
Standard	954	767	1,159	967	890	987	1,065	896
Baby	391	280	543	303	374	453	644	549
Total lima	1,345	1,047	1,702	1,270	1,264	1,440	1,709	1,445
Colored:								
Red kidney	657	871	719	488	680	527	331	567
Pinto	1,624	1,517	1,284	1,530	1,372	2,416	2,791	1,304
Pink	615	601	653	586	589	644	648	509
Small red	205	174	95	191	297	266	359	303
Cranberry	96	51	103	113	106	107	120	110
Blackeye	446	495	481	310	428	515	864	414
Yellow eye	119	119	125	117	114	119	94	148
Total colored . . .	3,761	3,828	3,460	3,335	3,586	4,594	5,207	3,355
Other and unspecified	419	450	270	351	420	602	686	600
Total United States	10,964	11,882	10,503	9,618	10,497	12,321	13,142	12,118
Rumania, mostly white	4,837	6,547	5,542	3,784	2,600	5,711	4,476	(6,349)
Bulgaria, " "	888	1,303	992	638	386	1,121	1,724	(2,200)
Hungary, " "	1,025	1,086	1,358	1,054	605	1,023	1,017	(700)
Yugoslavia" "	1,793	2,016	2,612	1,573	697	2,068	(1,980)	(1,500)
England and Wales	3,179	3,307	3,546	3,655	2,923	2,465	3,118	(2,700)
France (excl. from total)	2,405	3,436	2,100	2,707	1,535	2,249	2,581	a/
Italy " " "	2,875	3,148	3,534	2,440	1,785	3,468	3,571	b/
Japan, Hokkaido:								
Large and small white	380	435	165	258	315	727	1,267	506
Long cranberry . . .	284	243	250	286	295	346	491	189
Other varieties . . .	1,137	1,720	967	1,104	813	1,083	1,168	803
Chile (excl. from total)	1,452	970	1,126	1,724	1,660	1,782	1,489	c/
Total above countries	24,488	28,539	25,935	21,970	19,131	26,865	28,383	27,065

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Figures for the United States are compiled from Crops and Markets April 1929 and December 1930, and from the November 1931 crop report. Figures for the Balkan countries are official figures as reported by Agricultural Commissioner L. G. Michael and Consul John Randolph, supplemented by their indications for 1931 in parenthesis based on acreage figures and other data available. For other countries official figures are used supplemented by an indication for England and Wales for 1931 based on acreage and condition reports. Figures originally reported in bushels have been converted on the basis of .6 bags to the bushel except limas converted at .56 bags to the bushel. a/ Quality reported to be poor. b/ Poor weather believed to have resulted in small crop. c/ Acreage sown was 6.1 per cent less than in a year ago but early growing conditions were better.

Movement of Crops and Trade

United States

Car-lot shipments from points of origin in October were still somewhat smaller than in other recent years, although there was a big increase over the September movement. Total carlot shipments for September and October reached 4,949 cars compared with 7,379 in that period of 1930, 6,426 in 1929 and 4,882 in 1928. Shipments this season have been fairly heavy in Michigan and New York, but light in the western growing regions. Total September-October shipments from producing regions of Michigan and New York reached 1,727 cars compared with 1,554 last year, 1,709 in 1929 and 1,471 in 1928. For Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, the great northern regions, shipments reached only 1,368 cars compared with 2,115 in 1930, 1,740 in 1929 and 1,380 in 1928. For Colorado and New Mexico the pinto growing regions, shipments were only 1,019 cars this year compared with 2,528 in 1930, 1,485 in 1929 and 861 in 1928.

Net exports of dry beans for the first two months of the current season amounted to 18,465 bags compared with a net import of 64,394 bags in the corresponding period last season and an average net import of 37,900 bags in the preceding five seasons. Net exports in October were only 7,312 bags compared with 11,153 in September.

Imports of beans into the United States increased in October to 19,373 bags from 12,916 in September. About a third of the October imports came from Chile and another third from Japan. Reexports of foreign beans in October amounted to 13,235 bags compared with 16,744 bags in September. Exports of domestic beans in October totaled 13,450 bags of which over half went to Cuba, compared with the September total of 7,324 bags.

The export movement cannot be attributed entirely to low prices. There is usually a seasonal slump in imports about harvest time, which occasionally puts us on an export basis. In 1928 net exports reached about 14,000 bags in October and 19,000 bags in November, in 1927 we were exporting more in November than we imported and in 1926 we were on an export basis from July through November.

Foreign Countries

There was a falling off in trade in Rumanian markets in October but business was much more active than a year earlier. Part of the falling off is credited to uncertainty with respect to the effect of the fall in value of the pound sterling used in most foreign contracts and a resulting cancellation of orders and disputes on remaining contracts. Total transactions at important markets in September reached only 207,000 bags compared with 267,000 in August when the new season's activity began, as against only about 42,000 bags in September of 1930, and about 27,000 in August of that year. The first two weeks of October, transactions at Braila alone reached 47,000 bags compared with 87,000 bags for the month of September. Bean receipts at Constantza and Braila reached 104,000 bags

in September, practically the same as receipts in August. At Braila receipts the first two weeks in October were a little lighter than in the last two weeks of September.

Exports from Rumania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia in September totaled 422,000 bags compared with 425,000 in September of 1930.

In France there has been a good demand for the better grades of domestic beans, and at Marseille a good demand for beans together with decreased imports reduced the stocks in October. France has been exporting some beans to Greece and Italy. Some exports of flat kidneys are made to Greece each year, and with the Italian crop somewhat short, purchases of French flat kidneys are being made to supply the demand for this class of bean in that country. Receipts of foreign beans at Marseille reached only 94,700 bags in October compared with 237,800 in September. Uncertainty in France regarding delivery under future contracts by Rumanian dealers caused partly by the fall in the pound sterling, was still persisting through early November and tending to sustain the market for existing stocks. The anticipation of the winter closing of the Danube to navigation was stimulating early purchases.

In Hokodati, Japan, there is practically no inquiry from America for beans, and light inquiry from Europe.

Chilean farmers have been receiving the proceeds of a bounty paid by the Government on bean exports from the 1930-31 crop, in the hope of encouraging production. The Agricultural Export Council has stated that it has not fixed the amount of bounties which will be paid on beans during 1932. Considering that the fund for 1931 was not sufficient to cover the bounties authorized and that many of the exporters are holding warrants for bounties which cannot be paid at the present time, it is considered probable that the amount of the bounties for the coming year will be reduced to a relatively low level.

Current Prices a/

There has been some falling off in prices of pea beans in the month ended November 20 while marrow prices have been steady. Great northerns fell somewhat in New York but rose at Billings. Pintos have shown little change. Prices of practically all beans at San Francisco have risen, especially in the cases of small reds, pinks, small whites and regular limas. There was some strengthening of foreign bean prices in October.

Pea bean prices at New York fell gradually from $3.75 per 100 pounds October 24, to $3.58 November 20, marrows rose from $3.80 October 24 to $4.12 the end of the month remaining at that figure the next three weeks. Great northerns at New York fell from $3.42 October 24. to $3.32 November 20. At Billings on the other hand great northerns rose from $2.05 October 28

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a/ Prices are in dollars per 100 pounds.
In cases where original quotations show a range the price quoted here is the average of the high and low. The prices quoted are from the Producer's Price Current for New York, San Francisco Daily Commercial News for small whites, California Fruit News for San Francisco prices to mid-November, and from reports of the Hay, Feed and Seed Division for other domestic prices.

to $2.15 November 4 falling only to $2.12 by the 18th. Small whites at San Francisco rose from $2.88 October 21 to $3.55 by November19.

Red kidneys at New York rose from $4.50 October 24 to $4.68 November 20, and at San Francisco they rose from $4.18 October 20 to $4.70 by November 14 and $4.88 by November 18.

Pintos at Denver rose from $2.45 October 28 to $2.48 November 4, but then fell to $2.40 by November 18.

The greatest rise in price noted the past month was $1.05 in the case of small reds at San Francisco which rose from $2.40 October 17 to $3.50 November 14. Pinks followed, rising from $2.75 to $3.48 in the same period. Gains in other colored varieties were less noticeable. Blackeyes rose $.42 from $3.10 to $3.52 and bayes were almost unchanged rising from $4.18 to $4.22. Cranberries rose only $.20 from $4.40 to $4.60. Round cranberries at New York fell from $6.62 October 24 to $6.12 November 20.

Lima prices have been rising somewhat in California. At southern California shipping points regular limas rose from $4.82 October 28 to $5.25 November 18 while baby limas rose only from $3.35 to $3.55 in the same period. At New York regular limas fell slightly the latter part of October then rose the second week of November but closed November 20 at $5.92 which was the same as on October 20.

There was a slight strengthening of prices of beans from the Danubian basin in late October and early November. At Marseille Danubian bulk beans, unsorted, rose from $.97 per 100 pounds September 17 to $1.11 by November 4, and Moldavian beans rose from $1.03 to $1.19. Bulgarian beans are reported to be of more interest to American buyers than the flatter Danubian beans preferred by the French trade. Prices of Bulgarian beans at Marseille held firm in October at $1.16 rising by November 4 to $1.18, but are reported to be largely nominal since there is comparatively little demand for them. The price of common beans at Braila rose from $.70 the fourth week in September to $.80 the last week in October.

In Japan the average monthly price of large whites ex-warehouse at Otaru was $1.10 per 100 pounds in October, compared with Hokodati prices of $1.15 in July and $1.00 in June. Long cranberries in October were selling at $1.08 or slightly below the large whites whereas a year earlier they were dearer. Daifukus were selling at $4.08 or nearly twice the price a year earlier. Chunagas at $1.68 and Kintokis at $2.58 were not far from the prices a year earlier.